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## COTTON CULTIVATION IN BRITISH INDIA.

We have, for many years past, looked to British India to furnish the friends of humanity and freedom with the weapons to beat down the huge iniquity of American slavery. We have, therefore, diligently collected and used every exertion in our power to give currency to those facts which bear on the question. We hailed with great satisfaction the appointment of Mr. Bright's Committee on East India cotton, and although its Report has not been so cheering as we had hoped, it furnishes abundant proof, that when Government and the Directors of the East India Company shall find the leisure, or the inclination, to attend to the subject with that seriousness which its high importance demands, our expectations of India will not be deceived. The following particulars, arranged under appropriate heads, are gleanings from the Report alluded to. The figures represent the number of the question, as it stands recorded in the evidence.

### CAPABILITIES OF INDIA FOR PRODUCING COTTON.

T. BAZLEY, Esq., Chairman of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. 653. It is my deliberate conviction that India might produce a much larger quantity, and a much better quality of cotton than we have hitherto received, and that we might be receiving to an extent of not less than £5,000,000 sterling value per annum, more than now, and our manufactures might be sent in payment for that additional quantity of cotton, if the cultivation were improved. 764. Can you state the value of the quantity of cotton imported from India to England annually?—I should think it may amount to about half a million sterling per annum, at present. T. WILLIAMSON, Esq. 1677. How long have you been in India?—Upwards of twenty-two years. 1683. Is it your opinion that the cultivation of cotton, in any province, could be considerably increased?—I think that it could be considerably increased. Mr. JAMES PETRIE. Can you give the Committee any idea of the area of country in this part of the country (Coimbatore) on which the American variety of cotton could be cultivated?—It may be stated, at the very lowest computation, at 2,000 square miles, or 1,280,000 acres; and allowing only a fourth of this to be under American cotton, and the average produce to be only 100 lbs. an acre, we have then one district capable of sending to the English market upwards of 100,000 bales of cotton raised from American seed annually.

### ASSESSMENT ON LAND.

F. W. PRIDEAUX, Esq., Assistant to the Examiner of India Correspondence. 83. Can you inform the Committee what has been the general mode of taking the revenue from the cultivator, when its payment was due?—Yes; the money previously assessed is paid in instalments, which are fixed with reference to the convenience of the cultivator as to his power of selling crops. It varies in different districts. 84. Can you explain what security the collector had that the proceeds of the ground should not be alienated from the Government. Was the cultivator obliged to pay the money before he took his produce from the fields?—I believe, formerly, he was; but not now. They deposited it in a sort of village storehouse, from which it could not be removed till the revenue was paid, or security given for it. F. C. BROWN, Esq., resided in India above 20 years. 2886. 2887. Is there any portion of India now under cultivation, which, in your opinion, ought not to be subjected to anything in the nature of rent or assessment?—Yes, vast portions. I am of opinion that a vast portion of the land that does pay a money assessment, is incapable of so doing, under the natural state of things, that of adjusting the rent by fair, open contract between the parties, and ought not to pay a rent. I have travelled a great deal in India, and I am justified in stating, that my opinion is formed from what I have seen and observed. 2891. Your opinion, as to the impropriety and inexpediency of subjecting to rent or assessment of lands held under cultivation, is applicable not only to Malabar, but to the whole of India?—To all that part of India, more particularly the south, that I have seen, it does apply; and to every part of India to the knowledge of which I have had access. 2893-5. The lands you term unsaleable, are not merely the waste lands; but, under the term "unsaleable" lands, which ought not to pay tax, you include a vast deal of land

under cultivation?—Yes, I do; I mean land that is now under cultivation, and which has no marketable value at the present assessment. It was stated to the Committee by Mr. Petrie, that there were about 2,000 square miles of land in Coimbatore, all waste, capable of growing cotton, every acre of which is assessed in a rent as waste land, as if it had been brought under cultivation. R. D. MANGLES, Esq., M. P. 3324. In your opinion, what proportion of the rent do the Government take as the revenue in settled provinces?—On an average, the gross rental is double the amount of the Government revenue; about double what the zemindar would have had to pay to the State if he had been in possession. 3331. What proportion of the rent does the Government take in the provinces not permanently settled?—They take from 65 to 75 per cent. of the rental.

### OPERATION OF THE LAND-TAX.

MAJOR-GENERAL BRIGGS—In the service of the East India Company in India above thirty years. 1379. Will you be kind enough to explain to the Committee, on what principle you conceive the land-tax in India to have been originally founded?—The land-tax of India, as well as all direct taxes, have been founded upon the principle of an income-tax; a portion of the income, whether in grain or in money, has usually been considered the right of the sovereign; it has always taken a portion of the crop, whatever that crop might be; and this practice has prevailed in India, I believe, from the earliest periods. 1380. Was it a fixed portion, or a variable one?—The portion was originally fixed at a tenth, a tenth part of the produce of every village having been first set aside for the payment of the rates and taxes, and the village officers, before any division is made; one-tenth is the tax or revenue which we now find in Ceylon, also in Travancore, and in the southern parts of India, wherever the Mahometans have not conquered. At a subsequent period, the Hindoos raised that tax from a tenth to a sixth of the produce, and that tax long prevailed under some Hindoo Governments, and was encroached upon; but it was lawful to take one-fourth of the crop, in case of invasion. In this way the land-tax has gradually increased from a tenth to a fourth of the produce. 1396. What are the systems of land-tax prevailing over India?—The system of land-tax in Bengal and Bahar, and part of Orissa, is under the zemindary system; that in a great portion of the Madras provinces is denominated the ryotwar system, and that ryotwar has been extensively introduced into the Bombay territory. In the zemindary system, a contract is made with the headman of the district or country, who has been constituted by law, since 1793, the proprietor of the whole country. 1397. Is the sum which the zemindar pays to Government a fixed and unchangeable sum?—Yes; and is for a term of 99 years, and is considered a permanent settlement. 1399. What is the power which the zemindar has over the cultivators, his tenants; has he the power to raise the rent, or lower it?—He has an absolute power over his ryots, and he regulates his proceedings according to their inclination or power to resist. 1402. Do Europeans, who settle on the banks of the Ganges, under that system, become the proprietors of the land, or do they occupy land under the zemindars, or proprietors of the country?—They either rent the land, or purchase it outright; they purchase the rights of the zemindars from them. 1404. Explain the nature of the ryotwar system?—The nature of the ryotwar system is to make a settlement with each individual occupying land. There are three descriptions of occupants of the land—freeholders, copyholders, and tenants-at-will. The ryotwar system has a tendency to level all distinctions of that kind; the freeholder is no longer a proprietor, because he now holds direct from the Government; the copyholder also holds direct from the Government, and the settlements are made directly with the collectors of the Government, all of which has a tendency to break up village institutions. 1413. You stated that you considered the land-tax one of the obstacles to the extended cultivation of cotton in India; did you refer to the nature of the system, or to the amount levied upon the people?—It has reference, of course, to the amount, but it has also reference to the system; an increase of the tax has led to a diminution of the quantity of cotton grown. 1444. Do you consider the assessment too high?—Yes; because it is never realised at the present day. F. C. BROWN, Esq. 2901. Are there any cotton districts with which you are acquainted which should be liable to the assessment?—My own conviction is, that if the assessment is



continued in any of the cotton districts of India, that the growth of cotton will be lost to that country in a greater or less space of time.

#### ADVANCES TO CULTIVATORS.

**T. W. PAIDRAUX, Esq.** 257. Are advances peculiar to the cultivators of cotton in India?—Certainly not; I believe nothing is cultivated in India without advances—sugar, indigo, and everything which is cultivated to be exported to this country. 258. Is not the system of advances the general system of India, and which pervades every produce of the soil?—Yes; and every manufacture, I believe, too. 259. By whom are the advances made?—I mean that nothing is cultivated or produced without advances being made. The indigo planter, for instance, advances for the cultivation before he can make his indigo. Every thing is paid for before it is produced. 260. You do not mean that he borrows from the village banker or money lender, but the person who employs the cultivator advances him the capital?—Yes. **R. W. CRAWFORD, Esq.**—1082. Does the wakharis make advances to the ryots?—He does. 1084. He is the village capitalist?—Generally. 1094. Have you any idea, or is there anything like an average charge for the use of money?—I have heard various rates quoted—ten, fifteen, and twenty per cent.; according to the circumstances of the borrower. 1095. You believe the actual cultivators of the soil are generally men without capital?—I imagine so. 1096. And quite dependent upon the village money lender who advances the money?—Yes. **MAJOR-GENERAL BRIGGS.**—1448. You have stated that the Government makes advances to the cultivators; are there no village capitalists, as in other parts of India, who make advances?—Yes; but the Government are in the habit of advancing money upon much more advantageous terms than they could get it from the bankers. 1449. Do the bankers demand very high rates of interest?—Yes; seldom less than twenty-four per cent. 1450. When such a large interest is demanded, does not that show that the advance is made on a very insecure tenure?—Certainly, it would indicate that. 1451. You would not, therefore, be surprised if British merchants felt great hesitation to advance money under those circumstances?—I do not think that they would. **MR. JAMES PETRIE.** 2120. You have shown the committee that, from the Orleans seed, when compared with the native variety, there is a profit of 200 per cent. above the native cotton; can you tell the committee what is the reason that the ryots in the Coimbatore district do not cultivate that cotton in preference to their own?—The native cultivators in that part of the country are very poor, so poor that they have to apply to the village money-lenders to enable them to plant their fields with their own kind of cotton; these merchants or schroffs advance the funds; they are not merchants properly; they are rather middle-men, between the schroff and the ryot. 2121. The middle-man is a person whose respectability is known?—Yes; he gets the money at a certain rate of interest, and he advances this money to the ryots, the growers of cotton, on certain conditions, which I would explain. 2123. He obtains the money to distribute among the ryots?—Yes. 2124. The ryot is answerable to him, and he is answerable to the village schroff for the whole amount?—Yes; these men advance the money to the ryots, and secure their crops from the very time of their sowing, and in making their bargains with them they are often exceedingly hard; they advanced money on the produce at a time when the cotton is very cheap, and stipulate that they are to get it at a considerable reduction even at the present cheap price, in consideration of the advance they have made. The village monied men make advances to the ryots of money to the extent of one-third of the value of the expected crop, and the ryot pledges himself to give the advancer the produce of his fields at eight annas per pound of 250 lbs. a bullock load, under the market price, at the time of delivery; that is, he gets nine per cent. on the value of the whole produce for the advance he made to the grower; and if we take into consideration that he only lies out of his money four months, and he only advances one-third of the amount, we find that he actually gets eighty-one per cent. per annum for the risk he runs—that is, for mercantile profit. 2138. From your experience, should you say that the great body of the ryots are in the circumstances you have just described?—Yes, the great body of them; ninety-nine out of a hundred are in the circumstances that I have described. 2139. Are they in debt?—Yes; and if not, they are dependent upon the money-lender of the village to enable them to cultivate their own fields.

#### NECESSITY FOR IRRIGATION.

**F. C. BROWN, Esq.** 3260. Have you considered the subject of artificial irrigation?—I have, very extensively. 3261. Do you consider irrigation an important part of the process of agriculture in India?—It is; farming in India cannot be carried on without irrigation, in a profitable manner, and to the extent to which it is susceptible. 3262. Was that the ancient mode of increasing the fertility of the country?—I believe, as old as the country has existed; there are throughout the whole of the South of India, from Ganjam to Cape Comorin, the most extraordinary remains of tanks that it is possible to imagine. 3265. Have those works been multiplied under our Government, or the old ones maintained?—In the province of Tangore they have; but, in all the others, it is a notorious fact, that they have almost all been allowed to go into utter disrepair. 3266. In the instance of Tangore, to which you

have referred, have the results that have followed from a comparative degree of attention to the process of irrigation, been followed by beneficial consequences?—I believe the results are the most remarkable on record; they will show, if attentively considered, that an expenditure of capital, science, and skill on the soil, is all that India requires to make it, as it was intended by nature to be, one of the most productive and one of the richest countries in the world. 3267. Have you read the reports furnished by Major Arthur Cotton to the Government of Madras, on the subject of irrigation?—I have, very attentively. 3268. Does he lay particular stress upon the importance of attending to the means of irrigation throughout that presidency?—He says that it is the most important consideration of all; he speaks from an experience of twenty years all over the Madras Presidency, and he states, and repeats it more than once, that of all the provinces under that Government, the only one on the East Coast that has not declined, from the time that it has been under our rule, is Tangore, where irrigation has been attended to. 3281. You regard the adoption and application of means for irrigation among the means essentially required for the agricultural improvements of India?—So essential, that I am quite sure, with it, that much of that country would become what Egypt has so long been, owing to its natural and artificial irrigation. **R. D. MANGLER, Esq., M.P.** If the Government had wisely expended money in works of irrigation, it would so have improved the cultivation and increased the amount of produce, and so enabled the cultivators to bring dry and arid lands into cultivation, that it would have improved the revenue, and I desire that that should now be done.

#### MEANS OF TRANSIT.

**MAJOR-GENERAL BRIGGS.** 1564. You stated in the former part of your evidence that the want of roads was a great impediment to an increase of the export of cotton to this country?—Yes. 1565. Is that your opinion with respect to the whole of the western provinces of India?—Yes; certainly there is a very great want of the means of transit. 1637. How is the internal traffic of the country generally carried on? Generally speaking, it is carried on bullocks' backs, but where the country is sufficiently smooth, carts are employed—for instance, along the whole of the Madras coast, carts of a bad construction are used, which are constantly breaking down. There have been roads made in different parts of the country under the Government of the country, but they do not continue the roads by making bridges; whenever a river interferes, or rivulets or mountain streams come down, then the torrents bring down a parcel of stones, and the carts cannot travel with facility. 1638. Is there anything like a system of roads?—No. 1660. Do you consider that the defective state of the communication in India is one of the chief difficulties in obtaining the products of India in this country?—No question about it. 1662. Does it apply peculiarly to cotton, owing to its low price? It applies peculiarly to cotton, because cotton is a bulky article and requires very expensive carriage. 1663. Can you state that there is a prospect of the communications being improved, when we shall obtain cotton more easily on that account?—There is a railway spoken of; I do not know of any better mode of lowering the price of cotton than by improving the facilities of communication. **J. CHAPMAN, Esq.** 3958. Can you state what is the present mode of transit in Western India, the condition and extent of the made roads, the cost and the sums which are expended on the transmission of goods from one part of the country to the other?—Yes, a total length of 659 miles, six furlongs; not quite so great a length as two average English counties have in paved streets and turnpike roads, and but little more than one-third of the length an average English county has in cross-roads. The Ghaut road, which was made at an expense of £10,000, and was opened in March, 1831, yielded tolls in the year 1836-37, to the amount of £1,236; and in 1845-46, £4,210. 3967. The greater part of the traffic of the country is carried on tracks, which we should not call roads—merely tracks customarily followed, and, in many cases, they are tracks over which you could not pass carts. 3969. With regard to any of the natural roads generally in Western India, what information can you give to the Committee as to the time occupied in transit, and the cost?—The cost of the carriage of merchandise may be thus stated:—Across the Ghauts and in their neighbourhood, from about 3½d. to 8d. per ton per mile, according to the quantity and kind of goods, and the plenty or scarcity of means of conveyance; in the level districts of the interior, from 2½d to 4d. or 5d. per ton per mile; cotton from Berar, varies from 8d. to 1½d. per ton per mile; but on a fair average of years, 3d. and six-tenths per ton per mile; carriage by men and cotmen, which is the only means of carriage in some cases available, costs from 1s. 6d. to 3s. per ton per mile. **J. SULLIVAN, Esq.** 4577. The communications through the country are most imperfect, and they have to complain at this moment that railways are not in progress in India. **R. W. CRAWFORD, Esq.** 1162. Do you conceive that the mode of transit, now, is such as to deteriorate the quality of the cotton—for example, by the bales being loaded and unloaded when the bullocks halt to rest, or if the bullocks stumble, and any accident happens, do you suppose that the outsides of the bales particularly receive considerable injury?—Most undoubtedly so; you see a drove composed of several hundreds of these bullocks coming down the road, and each bullock has



his nose, so to speak, in his predecessor's cotton-bag, and feeds himself upon the cotton on the way down; an immense dust in dry weather is created by the passage of so many animals, which gets into the cotton, and the dews at night fall upon it and convert the dust into a sort of mud; the bundles are thrown off the bullocks at night and rolled anywhere, and the cotton arrives in Bombay in a state of great dirt. 1163. Do you conceive that the expense of the transit would make a very material difference in the cost?—Undoubtedly, it adds enormously to the cost—about three farthings a pound; then you must add the loss of weight in the cotton from the eating of the animals, the deterioration the cotton undergoes, and the length of time the cotton takes on its journey down, which, taking it at three months, is a most important element in the cost, considering the value of money in India. 1174. Has your attention been turned to the question of railway communication in India?—Yes, a good deal. 1175. Do you think such a mode of communication quite practicable in that country?—Quite so. 1176. Is that a question in which the mercantile community of Bombay have felt any considerable interest?—They take great interest in it.

## CONDITION OF LABOURERS.

F. C. BROWN, Esq. 3183-3184. Do you believe that the Government of India tends to the benefit of the country or the happiness of the people?—Within my own experience, I solemnly declare that I have seen the people of Malabar perish, and become depauperised as a country, under the operation of the Government. The Government of the country has generally tended to the impoverishment and debasement of the people. R. D. MANGLES, Esq., M.P. 3437. Is it your opinion that the effect of the land revenue under the Company's Government in India has led to the impoverishment of the people, a diminution of the cultivation, and a depopulation of the country, or has it led to any other, and what results?—So far from its having led to these results, I believe that India has very greatly increased in wealth. I am sure it has vastly increased in the extent of cultivation; I believe that the population has very greatly increased; and I believe that their physical condition has of late years been very much improved. CAPT. P. A. REYNOLDS. 4699. How long were you in India?—Twenty-four years. I returned in 1842. 4768. What are the general comforts of the cultivating classes, and their general position, as far as you have observed?—Their condition is very wretched indeed, comparatively speaking; but it is not to be estimated merely by solitary facts, because you must give them the advantage that they possess of a good estimate, abstemious habits, inured to hardship, and being averse to luxuries. The cultivating community of India, especially Central India, never clothe themselves further than wearing a strip of cotton cloth bound round the loins, put between the legs, and tucked in behind; the only covering of a man is the coarse blanket of the country; he can feed his family in that part of the country, I was going to say, for a rupee a month. Dry grain, jowaree or millet, Indian corn, and pulse, form the food of the cultivating community.

## THE BERMUDAS—THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY—ITS EFFECTS.

The *New York Sun* having published in its columns some statements reflecting on the character of the coloured class in Bermuda, whom the writer described as being little better than savages, an intelligent and well-informed gentleman has taken the pains to collect, from official sources, such an amount of evidence as must convince, not only the libellous correspondent of the *Sun*, but those also for whom he wrote, that the abolition of slavery, instead of being productive of disaster and ruin, is the fruitful cause of their present prosperity. We are happy to have the opportunity of presenting such detailed information, and that of so pleasing a character. The following extracts form part of the defamatory article:—

"Being completely isolated from the West India group, these islands can in no sense be regarded as a portion of them. The abolition of slavery has had a crushing effect on the prosperity of the Bermudas. The negroes will not work at any price, and as their wants are few, they manage to subsist by either pilfering, or the least possible exertion. Several attempts have been made to introduce white labourers as agriculturists, but being subject to so many degrading influences, they usually leave for our own happy shores after a few months stay."

"During the months of March and April, a number of whales are caught off the island, and then indeed occurs the negroes' feast—and to some extent the whites' also. As soon as the telegraph station announces a whale has been taken, the negroes immediately arm themselves with long knives, and tubs, and off they put for the scene of action, where there is a perfect rush on the animal, and he is soon demolished—the flesh of the whale—especially the young one—being esteemed by the Bermudians as equal to beef. Some years ago, and to some extent now, portions of the island were occupied by a description of people similar to our Barnegat pirates, and woe betide the unlucky vessel stranded on the rocks, for everything stealable was always appropriated. Large numbers

of American vessels are annually lost there, the island being surrounded with coral reefs, extending several miles around it, which constitute a perfect barrier to any hostile approach."

The Colonial Legislature of Bermuda, at its first session immediately after the passage of the Bill abolishing slavery in the West Indies, by the British Parliament, passed a resolve to forego the supposed advantages of the apprenticeship system, and to give immediate and unconditional freedom to the enslaved. But as a matter of course, the landed estates remained in the hands of the original proprietors. The evils introduced by the existence of slavery still remained, one of which was that of "leaving lands undivided amongst families," in regard to which Governor Reid, in his speech before the Colonial Parliament, in 1843, remarks: "this I take to be one of the reasons why so large a portion of the land of Bermuda is lying waste." So great was the extent of this evil, that the Governor states, in 1844, that "by the last returns, there appears to be little more than the tenth part of an acre for each inhabitant, under cultivation." In addition to this evil, some of the proprietors refused to hire out their lands "for periods of sufficient length" for the purposes of cultivation. Those proprietors who hired the freemen as labourers, paid them in goods instead of money. Of course the result was inevitable. Governor Reid, in speaking of the matter, says, "I am persuaded that the system of paying services in goods has retarded improvement, and that wages for services of all kinds should be paid in money."

Notwithstanding the fact that immediate emancipation was conceded by the Assembly, in the face of awful predictions by the enemies of freedom, and also the great drawback arising from the facts above stated, it was still felt, that could a proper investigation of the whole circumstances be carried out, that the result would prove the direct contrary of the allegations so recklessly made. A statement of the charges were forwarded to Mr. A. H. Swain, of Hamilton, Bermuda, requesting that he would furnish, from official documents, or other reliable sources, such information as would cover the points involved. The result was the transmission of a number of documents, the perusal of which furnish conclusive evidence that the statement published, not only does injustice to all classes of the ten or eleven thousand people of the Bermudas, but is a gross libel upon the coloured population.

The first allegation made is, that "The abolition of slavery has had a crushing effect on the prosperity of the Bermudas," and as a proof of the verity of the assertion, it is declared, that "the negroes will not work at any price, and as their wants are few, they manage to subsist by either pilfering or the least possible exertion."

The truthfulness of these statements is denied on the testimony of the most reliable witnesses. Their testimony relates to the industry, moral character, and educational advancement of the people. The commercial relations of the Bermudas is an item of some importance, and in regard to that we have the testimony of the Hon. Wm. B. Smith, Receiver-General, &c., who has held the office for more than twenty years. It covers a period of six years, three years immediately before the passage of the emancipation act, and three years ending 1847; and states the value of imports and exports for that period. He says that "the average amount of imports for 1831-2 and 1843, the three years immediately preceding emancipation was £85,550 value. Average amount of imports for the last three years, 1845-6, and 1847, £137,732 value; showing an excess of imports for 1845-6-7, of £52,182. Amount of exports ending 1833, £24,554 value. Amount of exports for three years ending 1847, £20,996 value. Excess of exports ending 1833, £3,558 value."

This diminution of the value of exports, for three years ending in 1847, is produced mainly by three causes: 1st. Because there has been a large increase of the productions of the soil (as will be proved in another place), thus reducing the value of the articles produced, and duties being charged according to valuation; 2nd, Because of greatly increased domestic consumption by the labouring classes; and 3rd, Because vast amounts of these productions were purchased by the Government for the maintenance of increased foreign prisoners and soldiers at the "dock yards" and confined in "hulks." The bulk or quantities of exports have certainly increased; but in consequence of the great plenty of exportable productions, the value has somewhat decreased. If due allowances are made for the above causes, and credit be given for increased quantity exported, we shall be fully prepared for the answer to a direct question put to the Hon. Receiver-General, viz. :—

"Is it your opinion that the emancipation has in any way impeded the progress of Bermuda?"



A.—“Certainly not.”

Again, the Hon. B. Smith, who is a member of the Council, and a magistrate well known for his discretion and integrity, is asked:—

“Have the coloured population advanced or retrograded since emancipation?”

A.—“Incontrovertible evidence may easily be obtained to prove that the coloured population have greatly improved since the abolition of slavery, and although great sacrifices were made at the time, I am sure that not one of the slave-owners have regretted the change.”

The opposition to a clearance of the lands manifested by a large number of proprietors has abated to some extent, and thus avenues to increased industry have been opened.

It is further alleged that the people “will not work at any price.” But what says Governor Elliot, in his address at the opening of the Colonial Parliament, May 15th, 1848? After speaking of the intercourse by steam with the mother country, the North American continent and the West Indies, and the consequent new markets open to the productions of the soil, he says: “Connected with these considerations I remark with particular satisfaction the increasing clearance of the land and the observable improvement in the industry of all classes of the people.” It will be remarked here that the Governor says “all classes of the people,” and it will be remembered, too, that the coloured people form more than one-half of the entire population. “The negroes will not work,” but it is said that Governor Reid, in his speech closing the Legislative session, in May, 1844, declares that “The increasing activity and industry here are very satisfactory.” A flat contradiction to the statement.

Arrow-root, the staple production of the Bermudas, is of course raised by the coloured people, for it is introduced as a fact, that “several attempts have been made to introduce white labourers as agriculturists” . . . but that “they usually leave for our own happy shores after a few months stay.” If they “will not work,” this staple must have fallen off. But what says Governor Reid, in his speech before the Legislative Session, in May, 1844? “I find from recent returns of exports, that the production of arrow-root, the staple of the islands, has been more than doubled in the last five years, whilst many other productions have been equally augmented.”

A reference to the statistical return made to the Colonial Parliament, in 1843, will enable us to determine more fully the industrial habits of the people. From that it appears, that the whole number of seamen were 358, about three-fourths of whom were coloured.

Carpenters, 224, nearly all coloured; caulkers, four, all coloured; masons, 100, three white; smiths, sixteen, four coloured; cabinet makers, twenty-two, eight coloured—1848, eleven coloured; tailors, twenty-nine, five coloured; bakers, fifteen, six coloured—1848, ten coloured; sail-makers, four, three coloured; branch pilots, twenty-two, four white; fishermen, twenty-three, about one-half coloured; domestic servants, 891, about three-fourths coloured; labourers, 926, about two-thirds coloured; rowing boats, 363; sailing boats, 119; nearly all the boatmen are coloured. About one-half row-boats, and about one-third sail-boats, owned by coloured men; vessels, fifty-eight; all owned by whites—1848, fifty-two vessels.

“The whites, who are engaged in none of the above handicrafts, either fill civil offices, are small grocers, or are more extensively engaged in mercantile pursuits; few are agriculturists. Coloured people, engaged in none of the above, are either grocers, agriculturists, cabmen, or draymen. Few fill civil offices, or are teachers.”

From official sources it is shown that the value of exports for 1848, in arrow root, was £6,760; potatoes, £2,428; onions, £2,726. “Straw work is done almost entirely by white women.” This branch of industry has fallen off very greatly, and is occasioned, among other causes, by large importations of foreign straw.

It will be seen, that whilst the importations have greatly increased in amount and value, and whilst the *bulk* of exports have increased, the imports from £85,550 value in 1838, to £137,732 in 1846, the number of vessels employed in trade, owned by *native* merchants, have *decreased*, from fifty-eight to fifty-two, which is a manifest proof that so great was the impetus given to commerce by the fact of the abolition of slavery, that foreign merchants have availed themselves of its advantages, and far outstripped them in enterprise, in furnishing such supplies as were needed, and in carrying away the productions of the soil. So much for the industrial relations of the people of the Bermudas. The various occupations in which the people are engaged, as shown from official sources, would seem to prove that “all classes” work.

But, it is still further alleged, that, “as their wants are few,” (meaning the wants of the coloured people,) “they manage to subsist by either pilfering, or the least possible exertion.” The testimony adduced to show that the people work, will serve to some extent to disprove the correctness of the statement just quoted. Nevertheless, the entire moral character of the people would seem to be involved, and an appeal to the statistics of crime will no doubt settle the question.

What say the police magistrates on this subject?—

“Hamilton, Aug. 11th, 1847.

“His Excellency the Governor:

“Sir,—In compliance with your Excellency’s direction that I should make a return to you of the amount of all fines collected by me in virtue of the Police Acts since my appointment to office, and in what manner they have been disposed of, I have the honour to inform you that I have collected the sum of £32 3s. I have also collected during that period, under the acts to regulate retail liquor shops, and for the summary punishment of assaults, the sum of £45 9s.

“I have the honour to be, &c.,

“(Signed) J. P. HALL.”

Mr. Hall is the only police magistrate in Hamilton; is a member of H. M. Council, and was appointed magistrate in 1838.

“St George’s, Aug. 16, 1847.

“His Excellency the Governor:

“Sir,—In reply to your Excellency’s note, requesting a return of the amount of all fines collected by me in virtue of the Police Acts, since my appointment to office in 1838 to the 31st July last, I have the honour to state, that the whole amount of fines collected by me under the Police Acts during that period is £26 9s. 3d., and £1. 2s. amount of small fines under the *Larceny Act*. I beg also to observe, that £91. 3s. 7d., being the amount collected by me for fines for assaults and battery, offences under the Act for Regulating Retail Liquor Shops, the Pilot Act, and the Act for Regulating Measures, has been paid, &c.

“I have the honour to be, &c.

“(Signed) JOHN T. FISHER, J. P.”

Mr. Fisher is the only Police Magistrate in St. George’s. Hamilton is the principal town, and St. George’s the second in importance.

These returns, it will be seen, run through a period of *nine years*.

On the 30th of May, 1848, Governor Elliott forwarded similar returns to the House of Assembly, which he had received from the same two police magistrates, showing the amount of fines that had been collected by them in virtue of the Police Acts, between the 30th of April, 1847, to 30th of April, 1848.

Mr. Hall had received £13. 12s., and Mr. Fisher £8. 14s. Says Mr. Hall, “Latterly, within the term embraced by the return, there has been a diminution of offences punished by small fines.

“(Signed) THOMAS HALL, Police Magistrate.”

Says Mr. Fisher:—“I find no material alteration in the amount of fines collected during the last three years in virtue of the Acts, but, compared with former years, the amounts have diminished.

“(Signed) JOHN T. FISHER, J. P.”

*Royal Gazette*, June 6, 1848.

Says my informant, “the act regulating weights and measures is quite a recent one; but, including the fines imposed under that, the average amount of fines for the last *nine years*, is £24 11s. 2d. You must recollect that this £24 11s. 2d. is the average annual sum received as fines for every variety of offence committed in the two towns of Bermuda, cognisable by the police magistrate.” It will be remembered, too, that it is the whole amount of fines imposed on all classes of the people, both coloured and white.

Let us inquire a little further into this matter. The magistrates may not be as well acquainted with the condition of the people as their religious teachers. We will listen to what they may say.

The Bermudas are divided into nine religious parishes; the Church of England is the established church.

The parishes are St. George’s; Hamilton; Smith’s; Devonshire, Pembroke; Paget; Warwick; Sandy’s; Ireland Isles. To the rectors or churchwardens of the parishes were addressed inquiries, and answers solicited, in reference to the general condition of the people—religious, social, and educational.

Aside from the present controversy, it would be perhaps interesting to give answers in detail, but lest too much space be occupied, and patience wearied, it must suffice for the present to give the main portions.

“Rev. J. I. Lightbourn, rector of Pembroke and Devonshire, says that he has 500 parishioners in Pembroke, and 200 of them are coloured, 176 communicants; 300 in Devonshire, 100 coloured—that the number of coloured members and communicants have ‘increased considerably’ since emancipation, in the proportion of ‘about thirty to one,’ and that the coloured people not in attendance on his ministry, worship ‘in a



small chapel,' attended by 'from 100 to 150,' built in '1836,' 'by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, aided by contributions from the coloured people.' That there were 'thirty-seven marriages' amongst the coloured people in eight years, while he was in the living before emancipation at Pembroke, 'and 105 since.' 'In Devonshire, twelve before' emancipation, 'thirty-six since.' 'Banns are very seldom published, as the coloured people prefer paying for their marriage licences,' &c. In regard to schools he says, there are 'four in Pembroke and three in Devonshire.' 'The latter and one of the former are under my superintendence.' 'About 190' coloured children attend. 'Three' of the schools are kept by coloured persons; and 'two' of the schools are attended by coloured and white children together. In answer to the question, 'How many coloured children were at day-school at the time of emancipation?' he says, 'not many.' In reply to the question 'whether the coloured people have improved or retrograded since emancipation,' he says, 'they have, in my opinion, decidedly and greatly improved, and I think will improve still more, as they seem desirous of availing themselves of every opportunity of acquiring information.'

"Mr. L. has been rector of Pembroke and Devonshire twenty-two years, is a profound scholar, a member of the French Society for Promotion of Civilisation in Africa, a gentleman and a consistent Christian minister.

"Rev. S. I. Stowe, rector of Hamilton and Smith's, says that he has 290 parishioners in Hamilton, 'about one-half' coloured; sixty-four coloured communicants. '176' in 'Smith's, one-half coloured; twenty communicants.' Number of coloured attendants increased; the marriages are 'chiefly by licence.' That the coloured people 'are improving in moral principles and good conduct:' that his new church was made larger principally for the accommodation 'of the coloured parishioners.' There is one public school in Smith's parish for coloured children, 40 scholars; 'two in Hamilton, about seventy' scholars; these schools were established 'shortly after emancipation.'

"Rev. Mr. Hoare, rector of Southampton and Sandy's, in answer to questions addressed to him, says, there are 'at St. James' Church, Sandy's parish, about 480' parishioners, a third of which may be coloured. Communicants, total about 160. Coloured, about sixty-six. 'At St. Ann's, Southampton, about 200, a third of which may be coloured. Communicants about 120; coloured, about thirty-eight.' 'There are two schools for white children in Sandy's parish, containing between sixty and seventy in both. There is also a school for coloured children, with about seventy-five scholars. The teacher is a man of colour.' 'The coloured population as a body seem to be improving,' &c.

"Mr. H. is the oldest clergyman in Bermuda, and has resided there more than twenty-five years.

"The churchwardens of Sandy's parish, in answer to questions, say, of freeholders, in 1834, 'there were none,' now 'eighteen;' that their church has been enlarged since 1834, and that it was to accommodate the increased attendance of the 'coloured population,' and that they now 'own a large number' of pews. The statement is signed by J. W. Gilbert, C. W.

"Rev. M. K. S. Frith, rector of Paget and Warwick parishes, says that he has in Paget 450 parishioners, nearly one-half coloured; communicants, sixty-five. In Warwick 328, more than half coloured; seventy-seven communicants. Attendance of coloured persons 'increased very much' since he became rector; 'nearly doubled.'

"One school for white children for both parishes, about twenty children. One school in each parish for coloured children. Forty children in Paget, seventy-three in Warwick; one established in 1835, the other in 1836. White teacher in Paget, coloured in Warwick. 'There is one benevolent society in each parish, working beneficially.' 'The people have certainly improved.'

"The churchwardens of the parish of Pembroke say, in their note, that there were six freeholders in the parish at the time of emancipation, that in June, 1848, there were twenty-six; that their church has been enlarged since emancipation. 'Chiefly for the accommodation of the coloured parishioners;' that 'coloured and white persons were employed' in making the enlargement.

"S. H. Dickinson, churchwarden, and Jno. B. Astwood, vestry clerk of Warwick parish, say 'that there were two freeholders in the parish at the time of emancipation, but that there are now twenty-four. That their church has been enlarged since emancipation for the more particular accommodation of the coloured people,' and that the contractor was 'coloured.'

The whole number of the coloured population of the Bermudas is stated to be 5,500. Of whites, 4,500. A number of schools are maintained at private charge, attended chiefly by white children. By a report made to the Board of Education in June, 1848, it is shown, that 1,063 children attend the public schools, that of that number, 811 are coloured. Twenty-four teachers of public schools, of which number seven are coloured.

The whole number of coloured freeholders, at the time of emancipation, was twenty-nine; the whole number now is 154, so far as known; the number is believed to be much greater.

It is notorious that, since the passage of the Emancipation Bill, that the price of lands in the Bermudas, as well as the West India Islands, has increased to an almost incredible degree. There is nothing "crushing to the prosperity of the Bermudas" in such a fact.

The principal hotels are kept by coloured men. The contractor for carrying and distributing the mail is a coloured man.

In addition to testimony already adduced, reference can be made to the reports of A. A. Scott, Esq., and J. Brownlow Tucker, Esq., to the House of Assembly, in 1844, setting forth the general industry of the people, as well as the charge of Chief-Justice Butterfield, testifying to their general good conduct.

All of the testimony from the sources stated, as well as other facts which might be adduced, utterly deny the truthfulness of the allegations.

As to the whales "caught," it is true that a number are taken; and it is also true that nine-tenths of the whalers are coloured men.

It would seem, from the statement advanced, that the whales are carried to the shore ready fried, stewed, or roasted, or else that it is an animal that may be demolished raw; for he says that "there is a perfect rush on the animal, and he is soon demolished." Suffice it to say on this point, that the scenes which your correspondent describes are wholly unknown to those who are now residents of the place.

As it respects "a description of people similar to our Barnegat pirates," said to occupy "portions of the island," and the statement that "woe betide the unlucky vessels stranded on the rocks, for everything stealable was always appropriated," we have the authority of a highly respectable merchant in this city, a native of Bermuda, for saying, that although some years ago vessels were stranded on the rocks, the laws protected every description of property, and that the faithfulness and honesty of the wreckers and people generally was proverbial. In reference to the "large number of American vessels," said to be "annually lost there," however true this may have been in former years, in regard to a certain description of vessels, it is not true with reference to the last two or three years, as the following testimony will show.

"A light of the first magnitude was erected here in 1846; since then, no vessel has, I think, been wrecked on these islands.

"W. B. SMITH, Receiver-General.

"Bermuda, Oct. 14, 1848."

Slavery,—not the abolition of it,—"has had a crushing effect on the prosperity of the Bermudas;" under its blighting curse there, as elsewhere, the soil was impoverished, and humanity brutalized. But under the genial influence and ennobling aspirations of freedom, the prosperity of those islands is manifest, and the people having passed through the dreadful ordeal of servitude to which they have been subjected, assuming all the attributes of manhood, give evidence that there is a redeeming spirit that accompanies human nature, even in severest trials, to shield it from destruction, and to preserve its essential elements for usefulness in whatever sphere it may be designed.

#### LORD GREY AND THE COMBINED COURT OF BRITISH GUIANA.

It would appear, from the late proceedings of the Combined Court, that notwithstanding the concessions made to the colonists by Lord Grey, in the appointment of Mr. Barkly as governor, they still persist in their opposition to the Home Government, and maintain their ground not to vote any supplies until the Civil List is reduced. It is evident, from the tone of Lord Grey's communication, that he expected that this appointment would have the effect of conciliating the opposers. The following is Lord Grey's despatch, which was read by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor:—

"Colonial Office, Nov. 29th, 1848.

"Sir,—I have received your despatches, No. 126, of 19th October, and private and confidential, of the same date, on the subject of the stoppage of the supplies, and the changes which it might become necessary to effect in the system of Government in British Guiana. Greatly as I regret the course which has been pursued by the Combined Court,—I fear to the very serious injury of the colony,—I should be very unwilling to take measures, under the pressure of the difficulties thus created, to effect any of the proposed changes,—the time being, as I conceive, very inopportune.

"I have thought it better to endeavour to effect an amicable arrangement of the unfortunate differences which had arisen, and with that view I have recommended to her Majesty, for the vacant office of governor, Mr. Barkly, the member for Leominster, a gentleman who from the



stake he has in the colony, and from the part he has taken in Parliament on all subjects relating to the West Indies, will, I trust, be regarded with confidence by the colonists; and whose appointment I hope will be accepted by them as a proof of the earnest desire of her Majesty's Government to adopt a conciliatory course towards them, and to omit nothing which, consistently with our public duty, it is in our power to do, in order, if possible, to put an end to the present differences.

"I have therefore to desire that, on the receipt of this despatch, you will call together the Combined Court, and laying it before them, you will apply to them to pass the necessary laws for imposing the taxes required for the public service, for so much of the financial year as remains unexpired.

"If they should consent to do so, time will thus be afforded for a deliberate consideration of the measures it may be proper to adopt, to effect a more permanent settlement of the affairs of the colony, after the arrival of Mr. Barkly, who will leave this country, as I hope, in the beginning of January. (Signed) GREY.

"To His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, &c., &c."

If his lordship expected to buy off the opposition of the colonists to an excessive expenditure by this appointment of Mr. Barkly to the Government, he has been seriously mistaken in his calculation. "I have listened," said Mr. Rose, after the despatch had been read—"I have listened with the utmost attention to the despatch from Earl Grey which has just been read, and I regret to say that I find that there is nothing in it which can justify this Court in altering the decision which it came to in July last. We were then asked to pass a tax ordinance for the remainder of the financial year, and after giving the subject our most deliberate consideration, we declined to do so unless the reductions which were proposed in the estimate were adopted. The question whether those reductions should be made was put to the vote, and it was carried in the affirmative, when your Excellency thought it proper to adjourn the Court *sine die*. There is nothing in the state of the colony at the present moment, compared with its condition at that time, that can justify us in altering our decision. On the contrary, we have additional reasons for refusing to pass the tax ordinance before the estimate has been settled. The grounds of our opposition to that measure have been strengthened. All the evils which we foresaw have actually resulted. Surely, Earl Grey must be aware—he has been too long in the colonial-office not to know that the estimate must be completed—must be entirely gone through—before we can enter upon the tax ordinance. What! are we to levy taxes in the dark—without knowing how they are to be appropriated?—without knowing what sum will be absolutely required? It is impossible that a man possessing a mind like Earl Grey's could seriously suppose that we are such children as to undo now that which we did but a short time ago, after the most deliberate consideration. We did not oppose your Excellency in this Court from any factious motives. We saw the difficulty of your Excellency's position; and if, on the 15th of July, we could have conscientiously voted a tax ordinance for the remainder of the year, we would have done so then. But to ask us now to do it! Surely there is not a man in the colony who would not cry shame, if we did so. The members of this court have great satisfaction in stating, that in all private and public intercourse with your Excellency they have met with conciliation; but we have a duty to perform, and, as far as I am concerned (and I think I can speak for the other members), no consideration will induce us to shrink from its performance. When Mr. Barkly arrives, if he possess full powers to deal with the question, he will find the members of this Court willing to meet him with the greatest cordiality, and to enter with a proper spirit upon the discharge of the duty which they owe to the colony. But, unless he come with such powers as will enable him to treat with us upon fair and just principles, we must be content to abide by the decision of Parliament, which will meet on the first of next month, and before which our cause will be laid, I hope, at an early period of the session. I trust, however, if Mr. Barkly has not yet received full powers, Earl Grey will see the necessity of giving him, before he takes his departure, such powers as are required to settle the differences which exist between this Court and the Government on the subject of the estimate. I see nothing in what has been laid before us that can alter or remove our opposition. I know not what instructions your Excellency may have received, or what it may be intended to entrust the new Governor with; but unless something more is done than what we have already heard, we must abide the decision of Parliament."

Mr. Davison also spoke at some length on the subject, disclaiming any factious opposition, but at the same time maintaining the ground which the elective members had taken up as imperatively necessary in the state of the colony. After a few remarks from other members, it was resolved—"That it is the opinion of the Court that there is nothing in the despatch just read that could justify this Court in proceeding to pass a tax ordinance until the estimate is presented." Members divided on this resolution as follows—For it, Messrs. Duff, Conyers, Brand, Croal, Davison, Gordon, Stuart, Jones, and Rose; against it, the Collector of Customs. The Chief-Justice and the Attorney-General declined to vote.

The Lieut-Governor then adjourned the Court *sine die*; and here the question rests until Mr. Barkly's arrival to assume the Government.

#### PORTO RICO.

A few months ago, we introduced to our readers an infamous proclamation of the Conde de Reus, Governor of Porto Rico, which was called forth by a vigorous struggle on the part of the negroes of a neighbouring colony, for the purpose of obtaining their freedom. It appears that the furious zeal of this monster in human form led to his recall, and that a new Governor has been appointed in the person of Don Juan de la Pezuela, whose first act has been to do away the sanguinary decree of his predecessor, as regards the extraordinary punishment it imposed upon the black race. The tone of the proclamation issued by the new Governor is the very opposite of that of the former one. Whilst it affects to be conciliatory, it is instinct with all the worst prejudices which slavery induces. It speaks of "thanks to the children of the soil of Africa, for their submission to their state of bondage, a condition from which they cannot expect to be delivered, seeing that it would do violence to property and vested rights." It then holds out, as a boon, the right of self-redemption,—a mere delusion,—not intended to be realised, and winds up with the following hypocritical *salvo*, "Be you resigned, and remember that man is only happy in this world, so long as he limits his desires in conformity to his lot." But we give the document at length:—

#### "PROCLAMATION

"OF DON JUAN DE LA PEZUELA, GOVERNOR AND CAPTAIN-GENERAL OF PORTO RICO.

"The presence, at St. Croix and St. Thomas, of the new Governor-General, with the troops sent out by the Danish Government to insure proper respect of the laws in carrying out its orders, has completely restored order in those two colonies, and for the present quieted the apprehensions entertained by the inhabitants of the negroes following the insubordinate example of those at Martinique, further excited as they had been by passing events among our neighbours (the Haytians). Those two colonies, I say, (St. Thomas and St. Croix), allies of our Queen, enjoy the most perfect tranquillity; and the glory of having saved the last-mentioned colony is partly due to the Spanish flag, under whose shade is ever sustained and fortified that spirit of nationality against which every wicked machination is inevitably wrecked in this island.

"The grave events which compelled my predecessor, the late Governor-General of this island, to adopt extraordinary measures for its tranquillity having passed away, I come to declare, by this proclamation, the decree of the 31st of May last to be abolished, as regards the extraordinary punishment it imposed upon the black race, and that henceforth all shall resume the order established under anterior laws.

"I feel happy, in concert with all the respectable inhabitants of this island, in the unalterable peace which has not ceased to reign here; which happy state of things is above all due to the generous sentiments which animate them, to the high degree of intelligence which enlightens them, and the paternal regard they bear towards those unfortunates whom we are taught by Christian charity to look upon as our brethren. It is my duty to exhort you to continue from day to day to show yourself before them more and more noble and disinterested; and I call upon you [white] creoles, as also you men of colour, in whose veins the same blood flows, to remain ever united, for our destiny is common with yours. It is my duty, likewise, children of the soil of Africa, to thank you for your pacific submission to work, and to warn you in time to repel the mischievous suggestions of those who are continually endeavouring to mislead you by announcing, for a period more or less distant, a freedom which your Queen cannot accord without violence to property and vested rights. Our laws, by a wise arrangement, facilitate the means of your obtaining it. You have that freedom in your own hands, if it be an advantage to any, by purchasing it with the savings of continual and active labour. In the meantime, be you resigned; and remember, that man is only happy in this world, so long as he limits his desires in conformity to his lot.

"Done and published in this Island, to be also published at all points —Porto Rico, 28th November, 1848.

"(Signed) JUAN DE PEZUELA."

#### DANISH COLONIES.

The St. Thomas *Times*, announcing the arrival at St. Croix of Gen. Hansen, the new governor-in-chief of those islands, says—

"As no official announcement has reached us of the initiative steps which are to usher in his Excellency's administration, we are unable to allay the anxiety which our readers must feel to learn the principles upon which the future social organisation of his gracious Majesty's colonies are to be based. That the position of the agricultural communities of St. Croix and St. John's are critical in the extreme, cannot be doubted; but we do not think them desperate. Those who have landed property at stake look for indemnification for the past and assistance and protection for the future, whilst the people at large ardently desire such popular con-



cessions as can be safely granted in the present state of transition they are in. Knowing, as we do, how deeply the intelligent middle classes feel on many points, how ardently they long to see the slightest movement towards constitutional institutions and social progress, we in the same spirit hope that when his Excellency shall have thoroughly investigated and examined the existing state of things, that he will ordain and recommend to the ministry at home such measures as shall secure us as great a portion of the liberties and rights, spontaneously granted by our beloved Monarch to his European subjects, as may be consistent and prudential with the anomalous circumstances under which we are placed."

The following information of a serious disturbance at Santa Cruz has been lately received:—"On the 11th of February, a riot broke out. The Danish authorities ordered the troops to fire upon the blacks; two men were killed and three wounded. Tranquillity was subsequently restored."

#### ILLUSTRATION OF AMERICAN SLAVERY.

SUPPRESSION OF A BOOK BY THE AMERICAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE DICTATION OF THE SLAVE POWER.

Our friend, Mr. Lewis Tappan, of New York, has forwarded us a pamphlet, compiled by himself, containing full particulars of the action of the American Sunday-school Union, and the correspondence which resulted, amongst which is a letter of his own to the secretary. Our space will only permit us to give a summary of its contents, which will be found of painful interest:—

The following pages, says Mr. T., will develop a remarkable occurrence in the history of American slavery, and afford new evidence of the control this "institution" exercises over the literature and religion of the Northern States. In 1832, the American Sunday-school Union published a series of little books, containing an account of some of the most interesting persons and principal events mentioned in the Old Testament. They were written in a style adapted to the comprehension of children, and were well calculated to give them a general knowledge of the history of the Israelites, from Abraham to the birth of the Saviour. The first volume was entitled "The Story of Isaac, or the *First Part* of a Conversation between Mary and her Mother." Commencing with the call of Abraham, it contained a sketch of his life and that of Isaac, until the marriage of the latter with Rebekah. "Jacob and his Sons, or the *Second Part* of a Conversation between Mary and her Mother," began with the birth of Esau and Jacob, and contained a narrative of Esau's sale of his birth-right to Jacob—of the manner in which Rebekah obtained Isaac's blessing for Jacob—of the hatred with which Jacob's sons regarded their brother Joseph—of their selling Joseph into slavery—of his imprisonment and subsequent elevation to great power—and of the removal of Jacob and his family to Egypt. The *Third Part* contained an account of remarkable persons mentioned in the Scripture, up to the birth of Christ. It appears that the books were stereotyped, and have since been for sale at the various depositories of the S. S. U., and are still, with the exception of "*Jacob and his Sons*," the second of the series, which has lately been suppressed! For what reason? Why is a useful Sunday-school book, prepared with so great care, by such a popular and able writer, and published at so great an expense, suddenly dropped from the catalogue of the Sunday-school Union? Why are the stereotyped plates, lately so valuable, thrown aside, and the sale of the book discontinued? No one who is unacquainted with the influence which slaveholders exert over many of the religious organisations of the country—the imperiousness with which they demand that no word of disapproval shall be spoken, no act of hostility committed against slavery, and the servility with which their requirements are met—would be able to understand why "*Jacob and his Sons*" was so readily "dropped" by the Sunday-school Union. No one who is aware of this state of things, and who is informed that in the narration of the sale of Joseph into slavery, a few lines in deprecation of the justice of that condition are inserted, will be surprised by the action of the Union, however much it may grieve him.

After being circulated over the country for sixteen years, it was discovered, a short time ago, by a slaveholder, capable of "scenting danger afar off," that a certain passage in "*Jacob and his Sons*" was discourteous towards the peculiar institution! The South was instantly aroused. Newspaper editors, and leading men in Church and State, were vociferous in their denunciations of the Sunday-school Union, and demanded the instant suppression of the

obnoxious book. The following "minute" explanatory of their action is adopted by the Committee, and sent South:—

#### MINUTE OF THE COMMITTEE.

"A few weeks ago, an old and highly respectable member of the Society, residing in Charleston, S. C., brought to the notice of the Committee of Publication, a passage in one of our early books, to which he thought exception might be justly taken. It purports to be a description of the condition of slaves, and though just and true, when applied to some countries, was regarded as neither just nor true, when applied to ours. *This was the only exception taken to the passage, viz.:*—that it was not true in fact, if taken (as it naturally would be) to describe the condition of slaves in the United States, and must, of course, make a wrong impression on the mind of the reader.

"The Committee gave such consideration to the case as they are accustomed to give to all suggestions of error or misjudgment in their proceedings, let such suggestions come from whatever quarter they may.

"It appears that the book in question was reprinted from an English copy, nearly twenty years since, when the state of public feeling on this subject was very different from what it is at present, and when such a passage (though as indefensible then as it is now) might have easily escaped observation. \* \* \* \* \*

"The Committee do not consider the exciting subject of slavery as at all involved in these proceedings. With that subject it is not the province of the Society to intermeddle; nor can we do so, without a palpable violation of the original and fundamental principles on which the Society was organised, and has uniformly acted."

The effect of this "minute" is instantaneous. The South is appeased, and again takes the Union into favour. The South Carolina Auxiliary loses no time in issuing a paper, in which they state that "the Parent Society has given the most substantial evidence of its disposition to circulate and publish no work that is exceptionable in its character and spirit to the *American public*."

The reader will doubtless have a curiosity to see the remarkable passage which was so seriously objected to by the Southern friends of the Union. Here it is:—

"What is a slave, mother? asked Mary; 'is it a servant?'

"Yes," replied her mother, 'slaves are servants, for they work for their masters, and wait on them; but they are not hired servants, but are bought and sold like beasts, and have nothing but what their master chooses to give them. They are obliged to work very hard, and sometimes their masters use them cruelly, beat them, and starve them, and kill them; for they have nobody to help them. Sometimes they are chained together and driven about like beasts.'

"Poor things!" said Mary; 'but why do they not leave their masters when they use them ill? The other day Margaret left you, mother, because she was tired of living here, though you never treated her unkindly; I wonder that the slaves stay with their masters, who are not kind to them.'

"They do not like to be slaves," answered her mother; 'but they are not permitted to leave their masters whenever they wish. Servants are paid for working for their masters and mistresses, and, if they do not like to stay, they may go and live somewhere else. But the poor unhappy slaves are obliged to stay with their masters as long as he chooses to keep them. And if the master is tired of his slaves, then he may sell them to another if he wishes to.'

This is the passage, in full, which gave so much offence to the slaveholders, and to please whom the American Sunday-school Union has suppressed one of its interesting and popular publications—prepared by a New England gentleman, who is remarkably free from all "fanaticism" on the subject of emancipation, and whose writings have hitherto escaped the ire of the Southern censors of the press. We repeat it, lest the reader should imagine some mistake; the above is a faithful extract of everything in the book touching slavery.

But it appears that, however gratifying the action of the Sunday-school Union, in suppressing "*Jacob and his Sons*," may have been to one portion of the "*American public*," another portion were not satisfied with it. When it was proposed, at a meeting of the Congregational Church of Farmington, Conn., held early in January last, that a portion of the annual contributions of the church be forwarded to the American Sunday-school Union, one of the members objected to such a disposition of their money, as he had understood that a book had been suppressed by that Society, at the bidding or request of Southern slaveholders. The subject was postponed until correspondence could be held with the secretary of the Union, and the objectionable book could be examined. It was finally resolved to appoint a Committee to request a restoration of "*Jacob and his Sons*" to the catalogue of the Union.



## The Anti-Slavery Reporter.

LONDON, MONDAY, APRIL the 2nd, 1849.

It affords us sincere satisfaction to be able to say that the efforts of the Anti-Slavery Committee, to diffuse correct information relative to the present enormous extent, and unparalleled horrors of the slave-trade, have not been without fruit. The Secretary, Mr. Scoble, has visited about thirty-five cities and towns, most of them boroughs sending representatives to parliament, and has been received with great cordiality by the old friends of the anti-slavery cause. With one or two exceptions, the meetings have been fully attended, and presided over by gentlemen of influence, such as mayors and magistrates, and other persons, whose position and character give weight to their opinions. At all of the meetings petitions to Parliament have been cordially adopted, and will be transmitted to both houses of the legislature, praying that measures may be immediately taken to deliver from slavery all Africans who may have been illicitly introduced into the Spanish colonies or Brazil, contrary to the faith of treaties ratified by the laws of those countries. The object is to strike at the African slave-trade, through the institution of slavery itself; for it must be obvious that so long as slavery exists, the slave-trade, in one form or another, will be continued; and that the only effectual remedy for that giant iniquity, is the universal overthrow of those systems of bondage which, in the present day, make the slave-trade necessary. The right to make the demand on Spain and Brazil has been fully admitted by successive Governments, and all that is required to render that demand effective, is that it be made *bonâ fide* by our Government, and be sustained, honestly and vigorously, by the people of this country. Just in proportion as the facts of the case become known, is the public indignation excited against those powers who have, for so many years, flagrantly violated their most solemn engagements with this country, and the public sympathy expressed in behalf of that innumerable body of Africans now languishing in bitter slavery in Brazil and the Spanish colonies, who are held by no legal title, but contrary to every principle of justice and humanity, in bondage by their hard and inhuman masters. The treaties which give Great Britain the right to demand the liberty of these unhappy slaves were originally purchased, at a cost of one million three hundred thousand pounds, of Portugal and Spain; and that with Portugal has been adopted, with all its stipulations and responsibilities, by Brazil, since it became an independent Government. The dates when these treaties were negotiated are 1815 and 1817; the convention with Brazil dates from 1826. The Spanish treaty took effect in 1820, since which period all Africans introduced into Cuba and Porto Rico are declared free; and all slaves introduced into Brazil, contrary to the treaties of 1815 and 1826, are free also. In point of fact, the greater portion of the slave populations of these countries are illegally held in bondage, and Great Britain is the guarantee and guardian of their freedom. This is the great point to be brought prominently before Parliament, and to be pressed with earnest zeal and perseverance on our Government.

According to a Parliamentary paper issued last session, it appears that upwards of four millions of negroes have been exported from Africa, since Great Britain declared the traffic unlawful to British subjects. By far the greater portion of these—in fact, nearly the entire number—have been imported into the Spanish colonies and Brazil; and yet the demand continues. The slave coasts are swarming with vessels prepared to carry on the dreadful traffic, and the only check they experience is represented by the capture, on the part of our cruisers, of four per cent. of the Africans shipped for the slave-markets! Three facts were brought out by the evidence laid before the slave-trade committee last year, which cannot be too frequently referred to, nor too frequently pondered. The first fact is—"That from the end of the year 1845, down to the present period, the strength and efficiency of the British preventive squadron have been raised to a point never before attained, and that squadron has been supported by the squadrons of France and the United States, according to treaties."

The number of vessels employed by Great Britain in this service, including eight steamers, is twenty-six; the number employed by France, twenty-six; the United States supplies six gun-brigs, and the Portuguese have some eight or ten gun-brigs on and off their settlements, south of the line; yet the result of our vast outlay, probably a full million sterling, is that the total number of negroes, liberated by British

cruisers in the years 1846 and 1847, scarcely exceeded four per cent. of the slaves carried off from Africa in those years." The second fact is, "That the sufferings and mortality of slaves in the barracoons and the middle passage are appalling to humanity, and the intensity of the sufferings, and the amount of the mortality, are unexampled in the history of the slave-trade." The tabular statement which accompanies the report of the Committee shows that, under the cruising system, the mortality on board the slavers has risen from 14 to 25 per cent.; thus the horrors of the slave-trade have been increased by the very means we have taken to suppress it. How melancholy a result is this! The third fact is, "That the admission of slave-grown sugar to consumption in this country has tended, by greatly increasing the demand for that description of produce, so to stimulate the slave-trade, as to render an effectual check more difficult than ever." No one can read the evidence, embodied in the foregoing quotations from the Report of the Slave-trade Committee, without being persuaded that language even more decisive than that which they have used would have been warranted. What, then, is to be done? Shall we still encourage the introduction of the sugars of Cuba and Brazil, without the inquiry whether, by so doing, we are not increasing, to a most fearful extent, the evils we profess to deplore? We feel persuaded that, on a sober estimate of this great subject, our fellow-countrymen will never allow a purely commercial arrangement to outweigh the dearest rights of humanity, and the highest claims of religion. Let the people of England but once consider at how dear a rate the sugars of Brazil and Cuba are produced,—the enslavement and the murder of their fellow-men,—and they will shrink from it with loathing and abhorrence; they will demand the faithful performance of their treaty-engagements, or they will be prepared to apply the doctrine of non-intercourse until they loosen their hold of the slave, and secure to him that freedom which is his birthright, and which is pledged to him by the most solemn engagements that one country can enter into with another. We hold Brazil and Spain to their bond; nor shall we be satisfied until it be fully and completely discharged.

It will afford our friends, generally, sincere pleasure to learn that measures are being taken, at the present time, by a committee of ladies, to obtain a large number of signatures to a Memorial to the Queen, bearing on this great subject. When we consider the depth of degradation into which slave-women are plunged—that they are utterly robbed and spoiled of their most sacred rights—and that they have no protection either in law or in fact, it eminently becomes our countrywomen to make this appeal to the most illustrious of their sex. We trust that not a single woman in Great Britain, into whose hands the Memorial may come, will refuse her signature, or hesitate to obtain that of her neighbours and friends.

If we could separate the West India question from its connexion with the horrid system of slavery and the slave-trade in Brazil and the Spanish colonies, many difficulties which now embarrass it would vanish, and the way to its satisfactory adjustment would be smoothed. There can be no doubt that the emancipated colonies are suffering at the present time, enormously, and that that suffering would have been greatly increased, had not the legislature of this country, during its last session, so far modified the Sugar Act of 1846 as to give them a little more breathing time, by increasing the differential duties between British colonial and foreign sugars, and by extending the period of their equalisation from 1851 to 1854. But, notwithstanding the alleviation thus afforded, it is quite clear that the cultivation of sugar in the West Indies is decreasing, and will continue to decrease, until the several causes which are now leading to that result be removed.

We are opposed to monopoly: we have strenuously argued against it in the case of the emancipated colonies, and have insisted, with all the ability we possessed, that the produce of all free countries should come into competition with theirs in the British markets, on equal duties, conceiving that such competition would be a real advantage to them, and beneficial to the mother country. We have also opposed protection to the West Indies on the same grounds, and still believe it to be the wrong way to benefit them, or to develop their resources. At the same time we have always contended that every restriction on their commerce, and every tax which could be spared, should be repealed; and, that with a trade perfectly free, and an industry unfettered, they might successfully contend with every opponent, in all the markets to which they had access. We have done more than this. With a view to give a legitimate stimulus to cultivation, we have demanded the greatest





possible reduction in the imperial duties, levied for purposes of revenue, on colonial produce, believing thereby its consumption would be vastly increased, with great benefit to all parties concerned. The West Indians, however, have not been contented with arrangements and advantages such as these; they have claimed a protection of not less than ten pounds per ton on their sugars, as against all other sugars, whether free or slave-grown; and, instead of earnestly preparing for changes in the fiscal policy of this country, which were inevitable, they have resorted to expedients as false in the principles on which they were based, as they have proved ruinous in their results: they have sought to coerce labour, under a state of freedom, and have failed; they have sought by the importation of an immense mass of labourers, from India and Africa, to compensate for the loss of the creole labourers they had by their unwise, not to say cruel regulations, driven from their estates.

The West India body complain of the great act of emancipation, which went into operation in 1834, and was completed in 1838, as a principal cause of their present distress. Nothing can be more absurd or false than this; and we would remind them that, until they can erase from the journals of the Colonial Legislatures the records of the ruin which had overtaken them long previously to emancipation—until they can blot, from the proceedings of the British Parliament, the long detail of their sufferings and misery for fifty years preceding that great act of justice and humanity—it will be wise if they remain silent. We contend that the abolition of slavery, to say nothing of the glorious benefits it conferred on a long-oppressed and deeply-injured portion of our race, was a real advantage to the West Indians; and that, had it not been marred by the folly and prejudices they indulged, it would have proved a source of wealth and strength to them; even now it is not too late, perhaps, to retrace their steps, and by judicious and honourable arrangements with the emancipated classes, to recover the prosperity they deserved to lose.

The only point upon which we feel we can really agree with the West India body, is in the baneful operation of the Sugar Act of 1846. The letting into the British markets of the sugars of Cuba and Brazil we regard as an act of treason against the liberty of mankind. The inconsistency of crushing the system of slavery in our own colonies, and of building it up in Brazil and Cuba, is too glaring to admit either of apology or defence. Its effect has been to strengthen the system of slavery in those countries, and to aggravate the dreadful condition of the unhappy slaves, as well as to increase the importation of Africans from 36,758 in 1845, to 84,356 in 1847, and a still larger number in 1848. Its effects on the interests of the sugar-growers in the East and West Indies can scarcely be brought into view, in connection with so dreadful a fact as this; yet, it must be remembered, that if, from any circumstances whatever, they are not able to compete with the Brazilians and Spaniards, and our present fiscal policy be continued, both slavery and the slave-trade will be extended, our export trade to the colonies be diminished, and the price of sugar be increased. We feel persuaded that a legitimate application of the principles of free-trade can never work against the happiness and freedom of mankind; but that a partial or erroneous application, as in the present case, may be made to protect crimes the most atrocious, and oppression the most relentless which has ever disgraced the history of the world.

The points still aimed at by the West Indian body, are protection to their sugars against all others to the extent of ten shillings per hundred weight, an unlimited importation of African labourers into the colonies at the public expense, and laws to coerce that labour when it is obtained. We need not say that we are opposed to all these projects: we can never be parties to the shutting out of free-labour produce, come from what quarter it may, from the British markets, or limiting its consumption, by imposing a differential duty in favour of that which is raised in our own colonies. As to African immigration at the public expense, it is not only unjust in principle, but cannot be secured except by recommencing the slave-trade. The only Africans possessing the semblance of freedom, in their own country, are those which are found at the British settlements; and these, except in small numbers, will not emigrate. In relation to coercive laws, we shall continue to offer them our most determined resistance, whether they emanate from the local legislatures, or receive the sanction of the colonial office. The pro-slavery resolutions of the Trinidad Council, to which we called the attention of our readers, in the two last numbers of the *Reporter*, are now embodied in an ordinance, which is under the attention of the Home Government. We wait its decision, which

we trust may be in favour of freedom; but should it be otherwise, it will have to encounter an opposition, both at home and in the colonies, which must secure its repeal, or render it innocuous.

Let the West Indians seriously turn their attention to the enormous evils consequent upon non-residence; let them economise the management of their estates; and, with the energy, capital, and skill they can yet command, the better-placed and more fertile plantations will yield them fair profits. But, above all, we entreat them to place their relations with the emancipated classes on an honourable footing—they may be won, but they will not be driven; and let them assist us, by such legitimate means as are in their power, to abolish slavery and the slave-trade in the Spanish colonies and Brazil.

It sometimes happens that articles occasionally find their way into the colonial press, which throw considerable light on certain questions, which are generally disguised. It is seldom, for instance, that we find any reference to the cruel treatment or neglect of the immigrants, except when an object is to be gained. Here is a picture of Coolie misery drawn to the very life in British Guiana, and which reached us by the last mail:—

"Is there one, who, in the late inclement weather, has given a passing thought to the condition of the miserable Coolies infesting our streets, our wharves, and our yards; wasted, wan, worn to shadows, hungered down to skeletons—devouring with famishing eagerness their scandalous food, procured from the carrion, robbed from the fish and the vulture, or the precarious charity of some casual thought of benevolence; scorched by day in the burning sun, and drenched by night with the tropical dews or the pouring rain, they are a bitter mockery of our legislative capacity, and a standing argument for the better regulation of our immigrant code. Their general indolence and harmlessness keep them from the gaol, and their numbers and the want of accommodation exclude them from the hospital. To them can come but one hope, and that is to die.

'Oh God, that bread should be so dear,  
And flesh and blood so cheap!'

"Now, assuredly, the man whom you have brought over at no trifling expense to the colony, and deprived of the resources which were his in his native country, has a fixed claim on your justice for the necessities of life; and their miseries and death will, undoubtedly, lie at the door of every one who has not exclaimed against the iniquity. I grant they are not the subjects which should have been chosen for our plantations—but, having accepted of them in the outset, we must not now shirk the duty of maintaining them."

In exposing this misery, the writer's object is to suggest a system of compulsory labour: "Where," he says, "the strength and appliances for labour are not wanting, I would add compulsion, for no man is exempt from the obligation of earning his daily bread;" and he justifies his doctrine by reference to the conduct of the High Sheriff who, "some months ago, adopted the rule of taking up all found idling or begging, and compelled them to work in the gaol-gang for their living;" but that, upon "some stupid quibble as to the legality of such proceeding," it has been discontinued. As to law, it is frequently set at defiance in Guiana by those who ought most scrupulously to respect, and fairly to administer it. We could produce many proofs of this, but we proceed with our quotations:—

"No wonder the jealous bigotry of the Anti-slavery Society is aroused, and the ear of the Colonial Minister poisoned against immigration, if it is palpable to the least thinking among us that there is no adequate provision for Coolie paupers, or no stringent regulation to enforce their maintenance, on the parties benefited by the services of the able-bodied and the healthy. Poor miserable drudges and outcasts that they are, they are yet human beings—and, like the rest of us, possess a reasoning soul—and if Scripture deceive not, are fashioned after the image and likeness of God; and have they no claim on human sympathy, or Christian charity—or are they to be left to die even as the beasts that perish? Oh! what a *miserere* going up to heaven from this province of a Christian empire, owning the sway of a sovereign whose proudest title is 'Defender of the Faith.'"

Such are the admissions of this writer. Mendicancy must be cured by compulsory labour "in the gaol-gang," although the wretched creatures may have been discharged from the estates from incapacity to do the work required of them. It is infamous, to bring them from their own country to perish from neglect, or to reduce them to the condition of slaves on the estates; or, in the event of their being unable to find work, or to perform that which is expected from them, to place them with criminals "in the gaol-gang."



## ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM LEWIS TAPPAN TO JOSEPH STURGE,  
DATED NEW YORK, FEBRUARY THE 20TH, 1849.

Were you here you would be astonished to see the prevalence of anti-slavery principles. Although the number of those who think slavery is under all circumstances wrong, do not rapidly multiply, yet anti-slavery sentiments have very greatly increased since you were here.

Hundreds and thousands of newspapers throughout the country contain facts and arguments against the extension of slavery, and very many of them against slavery itself.

The moment extension is stopped, the question whether slavery shall exist, will be discussed with new vigour.

Think, my dear friend, of the municipal government of the city of Washington petitioning Congress, as they have recently done, to abolish the slave-trade in the district of Columbia!

FROM A CORRESPONDENT, ON THE APPOINTMENT OF MR BARKLY AS  
GOVERNOR OF GUIANA, ETC.

British Guiana, 17th Jan., 1849.

We have not had a planter-governor of this colony since the memorable days of General Murray, who made such a mess of it, in 1823, that even a Tory pro-slavery Government was obliged to send him to the right-about in disgrace. It seems, however, that Earl Grey is going to experiment a little upon us, and that we are to have a planter-governor once again in Mr. Henry Barkly, proprietor of some estates in Berbice. Against this gentleman personally I have nothing to object. He is, perhaps, a better specimen of the class to which he belongs than most of his compeers,—without reproach, I have understood, in his private character, and, as a politician, a shade or two more liberal than many of his party. Still his appointment is strongly objected to here, by many besides myself, as *bad in principle*; for no planter ought to hold the office of governor in a West Indian colony.

For some years a rule, or something like a rule, excluding such persons from the most prominent official positions in this colony, was practically observed at Downing-street. Latterly, however, and especially since the faithless Whigs returned to office, a truckling expediency has taken the place of the enlarged and philanthropic views which the British Government professed to entertain in those days, when the emancipation of the poor trodden-down slave was deemed a rather more important thing than cheap sweetmeats. In endeavouring to please those ultra-sticklers for what they call a *free-trade in slave-grown cotton and slave-made sugar*, serious blows have been inflicted from time to time on the interests of the West Indian body; and especially, by the Sugar Bill of 1846, have they been deprived of that protection against slave-traders and slaveholders which they had a right to expect.

As a compensation for treatment of this kind the West Indian planters have been propitiated by the Government sanction to unprincipled immigration schemes, and by certain official appointments, by which gradually more and more of power to coerce the emancipated classes has been restored to men, who, by their abuse of the power they possessed in the days of slavery, demonstrated their utter unfitness ever to hold it again. In this colony this retrograde movement of the Government in favour of the plantocracy commenced, as is usual in such movements, in the small way. The thin edge of the wedge was first inserted. For a beginning, stringently coercive laws, formerly rejected, were now allowed. Then the local magistrates were associated in certain cases, from which they were previously excluded, with the *stipendiary* or Government justices. Then certain planters, or planters' relatives, were appointed to the stipendiary magistracy. Then we had a planter-attorney-general. Then a planter-acting-puisne-judge. And now we have a planter-acting-chief-justice—to be matched in a few weeks by a planter-governor. By those who know the state of society here, and the peculiar influences acting upon a colonial community, all this will be regarded as a backward step, and that especially too in this colony, where the great body of the inhabitants have no voice in the election of the legislature—no check upon official misconduct.

To leave for the present other less important cases that might be cited, illustrative of the evils of planter-officialism, I take that of our present acting-chief-justice, Mr. Wm. Arrindell.

Early in 1847, the attention of the Home Government was at length awakened to the frightful mortality that was taking place here amongst the Madeiran and Coolie immigrants, imported in such large numbers for some years past. Governor Light, who, having been sopped by an increase of salary, had allowed the murderous system to go on unchallenged, was at last stirred up from head-quarters. Earl Grey insisted upon certain provisions for proper care and medical treatment being made upon each estate receiving immigrants at the public expense. This very reasonable order from the Colonial Office it became the duty of Sir Henry Light to see embodied in a legal enactment here, and accordingly his Excellency commanded the Attorney-General to introduce an Estates' Hospital Bill. This was the famous Ordinance No. 4, which was the

immediate occasion of that split between the official and non-official sections of the Court of Policy, which has since resulted in a stoppage of the supplies. This bill was exceedingly unpopular with the planter-party, as you may judge from their leader, Mr. Peter Rose, declaring, with peculiar emphasis, that it was almost as bad a measure as the Emancipation Act itself.

Of course, Mr. William Arrindell, then her Majesty's Attorney-General, was in his official capacity obliged to support, or seem to support, the bill he had drawn up by command. He did support it, and with no small apparent zeal. On one occasion, when the expense to the estates was particularly dwelt upon by the non-official members, the Attorney-General declared, with one of those solemn asseverations to which he is somewhat profanely addicted,—“Better for the proprietors to suffer any loss, and to incur any expense, than for one of the poor immigrants consigned to their protection to perish for want of care, &c., &c.”

All this sounded well, but it was a piece of mere official acting. The man who thus spoke,—a planter,—a needy planter,—was at heart with those who opposed the bill he professedly supported. He hated this just and merciful ordinance, as well as did its open opponents, only his £1,200 sterling a year depended upon his assuming the appearance of being its supporter. He never intended to carry out himself, and never really desired, in the exercise of his office, as public prosecutor, to force his brother-planters to carry out its reasonable provisions.

To the proof, then, of what I now assert. Some four or five months after this debate in the Court of Policy, a medical commissioner was specially appointed to visit every plantation in the colony, and to report the state of things in reference to the treatment of immigrants, mortality, &c. Dr. Bonyon, a very talented medical man, and by no means unfavourable to the planters, was selected to undertake this mission. His report was kept from the public eye, as presenting too bad a case, until it got into the “Blue Book,” at home: without, however, the appended notes. In this way it came to be published here in one of the local papers,—Dr. Bonyon himself, I presume, supplying the notes omitted in the official version.

Dr. B. visited, amongst other estates, plantation *Zeelandia*, the property of Mr. Attorney-General, now acting Chief-Justice Arrindell. The note of his visit is given in the *Colonist* of 27th Dec., 1848, and I shall transcribe it *verbatim*.

“*Zeelandia*.—I found the Madeirans on this plantation in so bad a condition that I found it necessary to give the details from my note-book. There were in the first windward ward of the hospital, four Madeirans, seven Coolies, and one African; the two latter, not bad. The Madeirans with neglected intermittent fever. The second leeward ward, about eighteen feet long by ten feet broad, exposed to the afternoon sun, and so intensely hot that the manager, two medical men, and myself, all remarked the total unfitness of the place for sick people, was tenanted by four,—two dead and stiff, two dying from neglected fever. In the corresponding ward lay seven, all extremely ill. I pointed out four cases, as being in my opinion hopeless. The medical gentlemen agreed with me. In the upper wards were seven fever cases, not very bad. Such was the state of the hospital, which had no proper bedsteads, and very scanty bedding. In the

1st Cottage	were 14.....	6 sick.....	1 dying
2nd	„ „	11.....	6 „ .....
3rd	„ „	3.....	1 „ .....
4th	„ „	1.....	.....
5th	„ „	3.....	.....
6th	„ „	4.....	1 sick.....

“Calcutta Coolies were allotted here; most of them have gone away; such as I saw looked thin and sickly. There has been a large mortality,—ten out of ninety-two. Three Africans out of six from the *Growler* have died; the remainder are healthy, and look well. The medical attendant had not visited the estate for five days.”

I leave this extract from Dr. Bonyon's notes to speak for itself. You know something of the infamous *Belle Vue* Coolie immigration case. It could hardly, I should think, surpass this in atrocity; and yet this is the state of things going on at the time, and immediately after the solemn asseverations above referred to came from the official lips of the proprietor of plantation *Zeelandia*. What a practical comment upon this speech! Is such a man fit for the office of Chief-Justice? or, even should honest Chief-Justice Bent return, as I trust he may, is Mr. Arrindell fit to hold the office of Attorney-General? Ought he ever to have been appointed to this important office by Governor Light, who well knew his man? Ought he to hold it a month longer? With such an attorney-general, and a planter-governor to boot, how can either native labourers or imported immigrants expect to be protected? The best laws that can be concocted, when administered by those to whose personal interests those laws are adverse, will become a deceptive dead letter. With planters at the top of the official tree, the planter and pro-planter officials in subordinate positions will be able, with their brief authority, to play such fantastic tricks as will make angels weep, and tempt frail men to curse.

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## MAURITIUS.

The news from this island has lately been very spare, but the tendency of the information we have received has been to develop a dissatisfaction which has appeared to exist for some time, in reference to the administration of the Government. Various meetings have been held, contrary to the expressed wish of the Governor, at which there has been a free expression of opinion. The tone of these meetings has been anything but favourable to Lord Grey's regimen. The following account of a meeting of the Elective Committee will show the feeling evinced at these assemblies:—

At our request, says the *Mauricien*, of Nov. 24, we were allowed to assist at the meeting of the Elective Committee, on the 22nd instant, and report proceedings. To say that there was method, order, and business, in all that took place, would be paying a poor compliment to gentlemen, nearly the half of whom have already been members of the Legislative Council; some amongst them have followed the debates and discussions on all that concerns this colony in England, and had continual interviews with the most remarkable of our British statesmen; and we may say all of them, by years of experience, are well acquainted with the affairs of the colony. The assembly was not held in a spacious hall, decorated with a superabundance of lamps, maps, &c., nor did the table groan under a weight of folios, papers, and documents; a modest, small apartment, with table of *bois du pays*, a chair for each member, and a chair and small table for ourselves, was all, and yet there was full as much gravity—quite as much earnestness of purpose—in doing good and endeavouring to prescribe relief for the colony.

And now, at the risk of being accused of digression, let us ask the opponents of the formation of this assembly, whether already they do not regret their opposition? Sir Wm. Gomm, we appeal to you; has your Government been endangered? Have you not been disappointed in the manner this committee has proceeded? Have you read Mr. Chapman's and other speeches? Have you had to quell rebellion? Can you look with contempt on the gentlemen that assemble, and sneeringly call them "a mercantile party?" No; we feel convinced, Sir William, that you now see, like ourselves, that the Elective Committee has already done much good, and is materially aiding the future Government of the colony by its devotedness to her interests in this her time of need. Daily the members of Sub-committees are studying the best means of relief—daily they are concentrating information—visiting the districts with the petitions—corresponding with the Association of London and influential members of Parliament—addressing the minister himself—in short, they are doing more than the colonists whom they represent could have ever expected in so short a time. In justice to the colonists, let it be said, the labours of the Committee are appreciated, and no opportunity is lost in testifying their confidence in them, and their unanimous approbation of all they have done.

At the hour appointed, ten members were assembled, and Mr. Chapman took his place as president.

Mr. Dupont, the Secretary, read the minutes of the last meeting, from which we learnt that a letter had been read, communicated by Mr. Peyrebère, containing a refusal from Sir Wm. Gomm to allow the formation of a Committee of fifteen members in the district of North Pamplemousses; that the opinions of twelve of the members of the bar on the illegality of the late arbitrary proceedings of Sir Wm. Gomm had been received, and a Committee appointed to examine and report on the Government revenue and expenditure.

Several letters were read from the different districts, reporting the unfavourable answers they had received from the Government, in reply to their demands to hold Committee meetings, all of them expressing their recognisance and thanks for the efforts the Committee had made for them. The president said it was very gratifying to them to receive these expressions of satisfaction and approbation from all sides.

Mr. Chapman said he had been charged by the Committee to write a second letter to Earl Grey, which he now begged to submit to the members. This letter, after recapitulating the substance of the former complaints, refers to the further arbitrary conduct of Sir Wm. Gomm in refusing the meetings of Committees in the country. It was now clear that there was a determination to prevent associations, without regard to the number prescribed by law, and the Committee look to the imperial Government for relief. The inhabitants of Mauritius asked for British institutions, and as true British subjects were willing to adopt them; but instead of a liberal and enlightened policy—instead of encouragement and consolation from the local Government in their distressed state, they found the outstretched hand of power ever ready with force and severity to prevent any meetings whatever. His lordship was begged to take into consideration this their position.

This address was voted unanimously without any change.

Mr. Chapman said, the Sub-committee named to examine and report on the budget were waiting for the report of the Government, which would shortly be published.

The president called the attention of the Committee to the subject of IMMIGRATION, and spoke nearly as follows:—

It was now acknowledged by most reflecting men that the time for the removal of all restrictions on free-labour had arrived, especially as regards labourers introduced into Mauritius. It would be easy for the Committee to prove by statistical documents their just right to such a favourable claim. The notorious advantages which the labourers had hitherto enjoyed—the large number which have settled in this colony—the absence of any excessive mortality, were sufficient arguments for the removal of the present restrictions to the free communication of the working classes of India with Mauritius. A fair trial had been made by both Governments, which had ended in proving to the world the great advantages to the Indian population of such a source of employment. It was in his opinion necessary to base a petition upon these representations, which would probably find cordial support amongst many influential members of the House of Commons, and very probably of the imperial Government. Moreover, he considered it a paramount duty to the colony, in presence of its avowed incapacity to pay further heavy annual sums for immigration, to make the attempt to open a less costly supply of labour, for on it must very much depend the future power of Mauritius to cultivate the cane. He therefore proposed that a Sub-committee should be named for the purpose of preparing the petition.

After some observations a Committee was appointed.

The ordinance fixing the export duty on sugar at 6d. instead of 9d. per 100 lbs., passed the Legislative Council on Saturday last, Dec. 23, and has effect from that date.

## CUBA AND THE UNITED STATES.

Notwithstanding the protestations of the Spanish minister, the subject of annexation continues to occupy the attention of the abolitionists of the United States. They know from past experience how deceitfully the slaveocracy are apt to work in order to accomplish their favourite designs, and hence they are not satisfied with a mere denial of the existence of communications with the Spanish minister. Besides, it is well known, that General Taylor has expressed himself favourable to annexation. We extract from the *National Era*, of the 15th of February last, the more striking portions of an article from the pen of our friend John G. Whittier, to which we invite the attention of our readers:—

"In the present day, American slavery can only live by aggression and conquest. It cannot rest stationary, for, like the loathed dragon of the old ballad, it poisons its own atmosphere; it curses the soil upon which it stretches its hideous encumbrance, and must have continually fresh and virgin food, or perish of starvation. Limitation is death. State after State has been given up to its blighting; it demanded Florida; it seized upon Texas; it precipitated the Mexican war, for the acquisition of new territory to be devoted to its purposes; it fomented difficulty between the black and the white or coloured classes in Hayti; and it is now working its dark and sinuous submarine way to the great and fertile island of Cuba.

"The proofs of this last design multiply upon us—not, it is true, in the shape of tangible facts, but in rumours and intimations from a great variety of sources, domestic as well as foreign. The remarks made by a Southern member of the United States Senate, on the introduction of a resolution of inquiry on this subject, are entitled to little weight in themselves considered, but, taken in connection with other circumstances which have come to our knowledge, they are not without interest.

"We are no enemies to the extension of American territory; the annexation of Cuba, under circumstances compatible with justice, national honour, and the cause of freedom and humanity, we are prepared to regard with favour. But, from Cuba, with its slaves, held in bondage by American law, with its abhorrent foreign slave-trade protected by the American flag, may Providence in his mercy save us!

"We may be told that slavery already exists in Cuba, and that its transfer to the United States would not affect the institution one way or another. Setting aside for the present the important question which comes home to every free labourer of the Union, as to what effect the cutting up of Cuba into slave states would have upon the legislation of the country, we choose to look at the subject from the point of view indicated by the special pleading to which we have alluded, and to consider its bearing upon the large slave population of the island. Slavery in Europe is a doomed institution. In common with other heir-looms of despotism, it is in the last stage of decadence. The barricades of the men in blouses in Paris abolished it in the French West Indies. A revolution in Madrid may any day do the same thing for Cuba. The tenure by which the Cuban slave-owners hold their human property is becoming daily more precarious. Freedom in the neighbouring islands belonging to France and Great Britain has its influence on the slaves of Cuba. The British consular agents in that island, in communicating recently statistics of the sugar cultivation to their Government, remark, that the relation of the slaves to the proprietors is at best of a doubtful and uncertain character; and that they are daily losing regard for their masters, and are looking anxiously for emancipation.

"Setting aside, however, the uncertain tenure of Cuban slavery, if it



must continue to exist in that island, every friend of humanity must prefer that it should do so under the Spanish rather than the American slave code, inasmuch as the former provides that the slave who is harshly treated may demand permission to seek another master, and the owner is compelled to sell him, either for the sum originally paid for him, or for that which the Sindico or Alcalde may determine. The prejudice against colour is also far less bitter than in the United States, and the degradation of the slave grows out of his social condition, rather than the hue of his skin, or the form of his features. If we may judge by the statistics which have come into our possession of the relative productiveness of slave-labour in Cuba, and in the sugar-growing districts of the United States, it would seem that the slaves of the Spanish island are less hardly worked than those of Louisiana.

"Dr. Perrine, in a memorial to the Secretary of State, congratulates the country on the fact, that the slave of Louisiana, both positively in the production of sugar, and negatively in the item of expense, can gain for his master 100 per cent. more than the slaves of the Spanish islands, although his first cost may be fifty per cent. more, and the soil he cultivates may be far less productive than that of Cuba; and, in conclusion, passes a high eulogium upon the skill and economy of the American planter. What that 'economy' really is, may be learned by the definition of it given by T. S. Clay, in an essay published by the Presbytery of Georgia: '*The economy of the slave system is to get all you can from the slave, and give him in return as little as will barely support him in a working condition.*'

"Of late, American capital has been to a considerable extent invested in slave plantations in Cuba, and, from the fact that the Americans are admitted to be the hardest drivers on the island, we can scarcely suppose that the calculations as to the relative amount of work obtained from the Cuban and the American slave will apply to the products of their plantations. They undoubtedly astonish the ancient Dons and Condes, by their exemplification of the 'economy' of American slave-driving.

"The stronghold which our countrymen have obtained in Cuba presents one of the greatest obstacles to emancipation in that island. There is a species of honourable pride in the old Spanish inhabitants, from which much might be hoped, were it not counteracted by the restless cupidity of Yankee enterprise. Many of the large proprietors are sincerely in favour of emancipation, as the movement of the Conde de Santa Venia and others a few years ago sufficiently proves. In the memorial of that nobleman against the slave-trade and slavery, he declares that the Cuban planters will yet 'prove to the civilised world that they, too, know what is due to humanity, and how to find within themselves resources for escape from an evil which counts its age by centuries.' We would prefer to trust these men on the matter of slavery, rather than American propagandists of the Calhoun school. The latter are now looking eagerly towards Cuba, and desiring its annexation to the United States, not from any enlarged and patriotic motives, not because it commands the Gulf of Mexico, and that between it and Florida only about one hundred miles of ocean intervene; not because of its value in a commercial and agricultural point of view, and of its importance as a military station, but because its annexation would give the slave power the preponderance in our National Legislature, and strengthen and confirm the hateful system in the States where it now exists."

#### FUGITIVES IN CANADA.

In our number for January last we gave some interesting information as to the condition of the coloured population of Canada—we are now happy to have the opportunity of adding to it a further communication, of a varied character, from the pen of Mr. Smith, of the *True Wesleyan*, an indefatigable labourer in the anti-slavery cause in the United States, which is as follows:—

"I promised to give some particulars showing the thrifty condition of the self-emancipated slaves. A great proportion of them are farmers. You do not see the coloured people in Canada, as you see them in the States, settling in towns and cities, engaged as waiters about hotels, barbers or boot-blacks, and the women washing white people's dirty clothes. I did not see a coloured person, except in one instance, engaged about a tavern. They are engaged, for the most part, in what are considered honourable employments. I always feel bad, when I am travelling, to be waited on by a coloured man. The prejudice which is crushing this people is fed by the fact, that so many of them are found waiting on the white race. The feeling that they are fit for little else than servants—that they ought to wait on the whites, is kept alive by the menial business in which so many of them engage in the States. They are more respected in Canada than in the States, because they are engaged in more respectable occupations. I congratulated them on this account, and urged them not to copy the example of their coloured brethren in the States. Great injustice has been done this people by representations made in the States, or sent to them. They have been represented as a lazy, poor, starving community, for whom donations in clothing, &c., must be made and sent annually, to keep them from suffering. They are deeply afflicted and grieved with these representations; and in their annual convention, at

Drummondville, passed a resolution requesting their friends in the States to send no more clothing to Canada, except for the new comers and the schools. They said they did not want any; they had taken care of themselves and their masters to boot in slavery, and in such a country as Canada they could take care of themselves well. They did not wish to be considered objects of charity, and felt insulted to be so represented.

"I conversed with a number of white gentlemen, of standing and wealth, relative to the fugitives, whose united testimony was, that for the first four or five years of their residence in Canada, they were thriftless; but after that time they became industrious and good citizens. They spoke of them in terms of commendation. This is easily accounted for. They were accustomed in slavery to have their work planned, and laid to their hand, and never planned or laid out their own work, and never had experience in this important business; and when they came to Canada, where they have to arrange business for themselves, are like young men who learn the sewing part of tailoring, before they learn to cut—they can make a first-rate coat if it be cut to their hand, but must learn to cut out, or plan business, when they reach their new and free homes; and it takes them usually three or four years to do it, and then their thrift begins, according to the above statement. This is just what we ought to expect.—It is perfectly natural.

"I saw quite a number who had pretty good farms, and everything necessary for life and comfort around them. Some are worth hundreds, and others thousands of dollars. I cannot compare them with the coloured people of the slave States, for they are so much better situated that there are no points of comparison—there are points of contrast, but not of comparison. And, as I said before, they are better situated than the free people of colour in the United States. But the brightest phase of that people is in prospect. They are destined, in the country to which they have fled, to become just what the people of that country are—not what they are now, but what they will be, when the resources of that great country become fully developed—a wealthy, learned, influential, and highly civilised community.

"The laws there make no distinction on account of colour. The coloured man can take rank and place with his white brother, and the fugitives may become a part of the community, and share their part of its benefits. Some of them understand their interests in this respect, and are ready to take hold of any and everything calculated to identify them, not as black or coloured men, but as British subjects, and are ready to go against everything which gives them any identity or interests not common to all British subjects. This principle must be cherished and inculcated until every coloured man in Canada shall be baptised with its spirit. This work will require labour, time, and patience—but it must be done; it is the coloured man's only exodus. As long as he is heir to any blessing or curse, on account of his colour, he will be made to feel that he is a coloured man. There is as much or more difficulty to set the coloured people right on this point as the whites, but it must be done. And great wisdom is required to accomplish it."

#### Foreign Intelligence.

UNITED STATES.—SENATE, FEB. 20.—Mr. HALE presented two petitions of the Pennsylvania Society for promoting the abolition of slavery and the slave-trade in the district of Columbia, and that slavery may be excluded from the territories of the United States.

Also, a memorial from the Kennet monthly meeting of the religious Society of Friends in Chester county, asking the abolition of slavery in the district of Columbia, and all other places where Congress possesses exclusive jurisdiction.

Also, two petitions from citizens of Pennsylvania, asking the abolition of slavery and the slave-trade in the district of Columbia, and the prohibition of slavery in the territories belonging to the United States.

Also, two petitions from citizens and female inhabitants of Pennsylvania, asking the abolition of slavery throughout the United States.

Also, from citizens and female inhabitants of Pennsylvania, asking that slavery may be excluded from the territory acquired from Mexico; that slavery may be abolished in the district of Columbia, and all other places where Congress has exclusive jurisdiction; and that no State may hereafter be admitted into the Union whose constitution tolerates slavery.

The motion to receive these petitions being objected to, they were ordered to lie on the table.

WASHINGTON.—ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE-TRADE.—The following petition of the Mayor and about thirty of the members of the Common Council and Aldermen of the City of Washington, was presented by Major Gaines, representative in Congress from Kentucky:—

To the Honourable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled.

The undersigned, members of the Board of Aldermen and Common Council of the city of Washington, having, in common with their fellow-citizens, long regarded with disapprobation the importation of slaves into



the district of Columbia for purposes of sale or traffic elsewhere, and deeming it alike prejudicial to the interest of our city and offensive to public sentiment, request your honourable body to restrain such traffic by the enactment of some law similar in its provisions to that embraced in the code of Laws for the District of Columbia, reported to the House of Representatives, in the year 1832, by Mr. Wilde, of Georgia, and to the Senate, by Mr. Chambers, of Maryland; the enactments in the adjoining States of Maryland or Virginia on this subject; or grant, to the respective corporate authorities of Washington and Georgetown, such powers as will enable them to remedy this evil.

**OHIO.—VOTE ON THE BLACK LAWS.—HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Jan 30.**—Mr. Townsend reported back Morse's Bill, with the pending amendments, and recommended that they be agreed to. The amendments were agreed to.

Mr. Olds moved the Bill be laid on the table. Lost.

The question of engrossment was then carried, and the Bill was ordered to be read a third time now, which was done, and the question being, shall the Bill pass?

Mr. Roedter said:—In explanation of my vote, I will make a few remarks. This Bill contains two separate propositions. First, it provides that the taxes raised from property of coloured persons for school purposes, shall be applied for the education of coloured children. This is a principle of common justice; and I would consider it a disgrace to depart from it, by taxing coloured people for the education of our own children. The second part of the Bill provides for the repeal of the black laws, so called. On a careful examination of these black laws, I find them to be a miserable patchwork of incongruous provisions, entirely inadequate to the purposes of their enactment. I am in favour of a prompt and full examination, according to the eternal laws of nature and of reason, whether two races so distinct and different from each other as the Caucasian and the negro race, can co-exist together in one State on terms of perfect equality. If they cannot so live together, without endangering the public tranquillity and happiness of the State—if they must be separated, then, Sir, I am in favour of enacting, without delay, instead of those insufficient black laws, one general law of sufficient force and precision, for the purpose of effecting a full and permanent separation.

The yeas and nays were then taken on the passage of the Bill, and resulted in—yeas, 52; nays, 10.

The Bill, passed by the House and reported to the Senate, has been adopted by the latter body, though not until it was amended, in which amendment the House subsequently concurred. The *State Journal* gives the following synopsis of its provisions:—

Sec. 1, provides for the creation of school districts for coloured schools, and creates the office of trustee for them.

Sec. 2, provides for the election of trustees, by the coloured taxpayers.

Sec. 3, dedicates the tax paid by coloured persons to the support of the coloured schools.

Sec. 4, provides that the districts for coloured persons shall be deemed distinct bodies politic.

Sec. 5, defines who shall be deemed to be coloured.

Sec. 6, repeals all laws creating disabilities, or conferring privileges on account of colour.

The blacks under this law have not the right to sit on juries, or the benefit of the poor laws.

The following resolution was passed at a recent convention of coloured people, in Columbus, Ohio. The object of the convention was to seek the repeal of all laws which require the free blacks to leave the State, or emigrate elsewhere.

Resolved—"That we will never leave this country while one of our brethren groans in slavish fetters in the United States, but will remain on this soil and contend for our rights, and those of our enslaved race—upon the rostrum—in the pulpit—in the social circle, and upon the field, if necessary, until liberty to the captive shall be proclaimed throughout the land."

**NEGROES IN OHIO.**—The recent census in Ohio shows that there are in the southern division of the State 15,005 coloured persons, and in the northern division, 2,311.

**KENTUCKY.—CASSIUS M. CLAY.**—The agitation of the question of emancipation, says the *National Era*, is spreading in Kentucky. We have letters from some of its citizens, giving hopeful accounts of the state of things.

The *Examiner* at Louisville is doing great service, by its thorough arguments and powerful facts. Its last number contains a short letter from Cassius M. Clay, proposing a convention of the emancipationists, with a view of consolidating their forces. We are glad to see this gentleman again coming forward with his accustomed spirit. We have never distrusted his devotion to the cause of emancipation, or doubted his ability as one of its standard-bearers, though we differed from him radically as to the duty of the citizens in relation to the Mexican war. But, let the past go. Mr. Clay, from the time he first raised his voice in the Kentucky legislature against the importation of slaves into the State,

has never abated his opposition to slavery. The anti-slavery cause in Kentucky will derive great aid from his energy, courage, and executive talent.

Maddison County, Kentucky, Dec. 25, 1848.

Gentlemen,—I have been waiting for some time for a call of a convention of the friends of emancipation, previous to the coming canvass of this great question before the people. With diffidence, in default of others, I make a few suggestions for your consideration. Say that a meeting take place, as soon as practicable, in Louisville, because it is accessible to all parts of the State. That all persons friendly to the cause of liberty be members. Let the convention sit with open or closed doors, as may be determined on the ground.

Such a meeting seems desirable for the following among many other reasons:—

1. To gain the power which ever ensues from organisation.
2. To appoint a treasurer, and committees of finance and correspondence.
3. To district the State, and allot competent debaters to each county, that every neighbourhood may be canvassed.
4. By concert to take care that in minority counties the vote shall not be lost.

It is now for Kentucky, so eminently gifted by nature, to determine whether she will sink for ever lower and lower down, by the side of South Carolina and Arkansas, into decay, impotency and barbarism—or whether she will ascend into the glorious sisterhood of such States as Ohio, Massachusetts, and New York.

Whilst we urge every reason in favour of liberty, drawn from the development of our physical, moral, and intellectual well-being, let us not by cowardice be driven from our true and safest ground—to liberate our slaves because it is right.

The spirit of revolutionising nations inspires our cause—whatever is of worth in Christianity sustains us—the aspirations of the good and great of all lands are for us—conscience upholds us—God is on our side. Let us, then, finish the work which our fathers have left us—sacred and inviolate—to make our country free.

Your obedient servant,

C. M. CLAY.

To the Editors of the *Examiner*.

One paragraph of this contains a sentiment as magnanimous as it is true: "While we urge every reason in favour of liberty, drawn from the development of our physical, moral, and intellectual well-being, let us not by cowardice be driven from our true and safest ground—to liberate our slaves because it is right."

It is proper to appeal to self-interest—such an appeal may be necessary to arrest attention, and produce conviction; but what will become of the slaves, unless justice and humanity go hand in hand with self-interest? Those reforms are the safest, most enduring, most beneficial, which, if not entirely originated or impelled, are nevertheless controlled and consummated by moral sentiment.

The *Louisville Journal* has the following notice of a meeting held in that city upon the subject of slave emancipation:—

The call for a meeting of the friends of prospective emancipation at the Court House, last night, was responded to in a manner the most gratifying and cheering to the friends of that measure of State policy. Despite the unfavourable weather, the Court House was crowded, and among the audience we saw many of our most respectable, intelligent, and influential citizens.

The meeting was organised by the appointment of a committee, to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting with reference to constitutional reform, and particularly with reference to the subject of emancipation.

The preamble and resolutions of the committee, with a substitute offered by Rev. Mr. Breckenridge, were recommitted to the committee (to which Mr. Breckenridge was added), with instructions to report an address to the people of Kentucky, at a meeting to be held on the following Monday evening.

This is, we believe, the first public meeting of the friends of emancipation in Louisville, and probably the first ever held in Kentucky.

**THE BLACK LAWS.**—"We understand that the British Charge d'Affaires at Washington has, under instructions from his government, remonstrated, in very decided terms, to the Department of State, against the enforcement, by the authorities of Mobile, of the laws of this State regulating the arrival of persons of colour at this port—said laws having been enforced last January against free negroes brought here by the British ships *Queen* and *Portland*. He pronounces such laws to be gross violations of the comity of international intercourse, in conflict with the treaty stipulations between the two nations, and subversive of the harmony and commercial reciprocity which it is desirable to establish and maintain.

"We understand that the facts and circumstances attending the cases referred to, are now undergoing investigation, and we are confident they will be found to be less heinous than has been represented to the British government. Moreover, our State Legislature, at the last session, modified the laws in question to such a degree, that we apprehend the objec-



tionable features are removed, and no cause of complaint will occur in future."—*Mobile Tribune*.

**NEW ORLEANS.—BLACK LAWS.**—An interesting case, under the laws of Louisiana, has occurred at New Orleans. Monsieur L. A. Coppens, a French gentleman, from Martinique, after the emancipation by the French Republic of the slaves at that place, embarked in the British brig *Recovery*, Captain Burke, for New Orleans, accompanied by three servants, former slaves, who had passports from the French Government. On the arrival of the *Recovery* at New Orleans, it became the duty of the collector, under an act of Congress of the 28th February, 1803, to proceed against the captain of the brig and the passenger, M. Coppens, for the recovery of a penalty of 1,000 dollars, for the introduction of persons of colour into a State where the local law forbids such persons to be introduced. Special bail in such cases is required, and the ship is liable to forfeiture. The *Delta* says: "Captain Burke, of the *Recovery*, M. Coppens, and his coloured companions, were all arrested and held to bail. Yesterday, however, the counsel for these parties took a rule to discharge the arrest, on the ground that the United States laws having abolished imprisonment for debt in all States where it was not abolished by State laws, which is the case in this State, the parties could not be held to bail. The point thus raised involves some very important questions of law, which, if determined in favour of the position of the defendants, will seriously embarrass the enforcement of our whole system of revenue laws. The judge took the matter under consideration."

**GERMAN AND SLAVE LABOUR.**—A correspondent of the *Evening Post*, writing from St. Louis, Missouri, says:—

"There are in St. Louis 20,000 Germans, and in other portions of the State as many more. Most of them are labourers and mechanics. Germans can be hired cheaper than slaves can be kept and clothed. The use of the capital invested in a dozen slaves is worth half enough to hire an equal number of Germans; and one German will do almost twice as much as a negro. The influence of German labour is already felt and seen in St. Louis. It is fast driving slaves from the city, and will aid in driving them from the State. But what the Germans fail to do, in this silent way, they will accomplish at the ballot-box, for they are to a man opposed to slavery."

**SLAVE POPULATION.**—The proportion of slaves in the United States to the white population has been as presented in the following table:—

In 1800 .....	1 slave to 5 and 1.5th white.
" 1810 .....	1 do. to 5 " 5.7th do.
" 1820 .....	1 do. to 6 " 1.12th do.
" 1830 .....	1 do. to 6 " 2.8th do.
" 1840 .....	1 do. to 6 " 7.8th do.

It will be seen that the recession of the slave population, in relative proportion, is slow but unvarying in its course.—*Rich. Southerner*.

**HAVANA.**—The following interesting statement of the trade of the island is up to the 8th of February last, and gives an account of the transactions of last year as compared with 1847:—

"It will be remarked, from the tables at foot, that the exports of sugar in 1848 were within a trifle as large as those of 1847, being the equivalent in clayed and Muscovado of 1,007,898 boxes against 1,015,925 boxes. From other parts of the island, including the south side, the equivalent of 250,000 boxes went forward, against 280,000 boxes in 1847, which make the total exports from the island about 1,257,000 boxes, against 1,295,000 boxes in 1847.

"The United States have taken a large quantity of our sugars, although their home crop was abundant, having reached about 240,000 hhds. The shipments to that country in 1848 amounted to 228,500 boxes from hence and Matanzas, and 175,000 boxes from other parts of the island, making together 403,500 boxes; while in 1847 they imported from Cuba 482,500 boxes, the Louisiana crop being in that year about 100,000 hhds. less than it was last year. It is evident, therefore, that the consumption of sugar in that country is increasing rapidly, and as their home crop for the present season is estimated at 50,000 hhds. less than that of 1848, we must expect to see a very active inquiry for our staple from that quarter; to such an extent, indeed, as probably to take the lead in regulating the course of our prices.

"Great Britain took much less of our sugars last year than in 1847, the direct shipments from the island having been about 132,000 boxes against 217,000 boxes. The exports to Spain are, however, steadily increasing, and amounted to about 178,400 boxes from all parts of the island, against 159,400 boxes in 1847.

"The present crop is later than usual, and, owing to severe droughts, for two successive seasons, will show a deficiency of at least one-third, compared with the production of last year. On the other hand, we may fairly expect active inquiry, considering the short crop in Louisiana and other colonies, the happy prospects for trade and commerce, and the new and highly important fields opening for energy and enterprise. Spain will probably require as much, and perhaps more, than last year, and we may look for a good demand from other parts of Europe, particularly as it is said there will be a decrease in the production of beet-root. We think it is not too much to estimate that the United States will require

upwards of 400,000 boxes of our sugars from this side of the island, and if we add 150,000 boxes for Spain, and 120,000 boxes for Russia, it will be evident that the greater part of the probable amount of our crop on this side will be absorbed, and but a comparatively trifling proportion will remain available for the rest of Europe. Taking everything into view, therefore, it seems reasonable to anticipate that our prices will rule high during the ensuing campaign.

"The crop of molasses will also show a considerable deficiency, not only because there is one-third less sugar to be expected, but also because the cane is dry, and does not yield the usual proportion of molasses to a given quantity of sugar.

"There is a fair inquiry for coffee, but not much comes in. The exports in 1848 from hence and Matanzas were only 126,700 arrobes against 427,600 arrobes in 1847. The crop on this side of the island will yield more than last year, although it will only be very moderate.

EXPORTS OF SUGAR FROM 1ST JAN. TO END OF DEC., 1848.

	BOXES OF SUGAR.			
	From Havana.		From Matanzas.	
	1847	1848	1847	1848
To Boston .....	26,739	12,027	31,358	24,433
— New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore .....	108,179	100,369	75,357	62,207
— Other ports in the U. States .....	43,037	21,193	8,836	8,282
— Great Britain .....	100,741	77,004	66,522	38,233
— Cowes and Baltic .....	96,681	185,732	65,192	103,309
— Hamburg and Bremen .....	42,032	58,909	24,583	22,915
— Holland .....	60,032	38,112	21,688	9,678
— Belgium .....				
— Spain .....	114,092	126,616	18,971	25,555
— France, Italy, and other parts .....	65,863	56,626	46,022	20,317
— Mexico, Sisal, and South America .....				
Total .....	657,396	691,781	358,529	316,117

## Colonial Intelligence.

**JAMAICA.—LIBERATED AFRICANS.**—We learn that Captain Dixon, of the barque *Fame*, which arrived here on Friday last, with a detachment of the 2nd West India regiment from Sierra Leone, reports that when he left that place there were eleven hundred Africans who had been set at liberty, but they positively refused to come on to this island, stating as their reason that there was no encouragement for them here. It is considered that the minds of these people have been greatly biassed by the African immigrants who have returned to Sierra Leone from this country. A slaver, with several hundred Africans on board, was captured on the river by the *Dolphin*; five hundred were at once sent to Sierra Leone, and the remaining two hundred were still on board the same vessel, and would be also sent into the same place; twenty-five of them died on the passage.—*Falmouth Post*.

It appears, from papers received, that things in this island are drawing to a crisis. The imports of last year are officially stated to have exceeded the exports by over £395,000 sterling, whilst the public revenue falls short of the expenditure some £50,000 sterling, without any prospect of improvement, save by increased taxation, which the inhabitants are plainly unable to bear. In this state of things, common sense suggests retrenchment in the expenditure as an imperative duty. But whilst the House of Assembly are willing to do their duty to the public in this respect, the Council are averse, and the two branches are in open conflict on this subject. Recent circumstances have occurred to exasperate the dispute and widen the breach. The House, it seems, had resolved not to pass any Bill raising the revenue beyond the 15th of February next, until a measure of retrenchment, consonant with the impoverished condition of the island, be passed into law. In accordance with this resolution, the Import Duties' Bill was passed by the House with a limitation to the 15th of February; but the engrossing clerk, by mistake it is said, substituted 15th of December, 1849, for 15th of February, 1849, and in that form the Bill went from the House to the Council. The *Honourable* Board saw the error, knew it to be an error of a servant of the House, and meanly took all the advantage of it they could, by hurrying the Bill through all its stages in one day, and sending it to the Governor for his assent. Sir Charles Grey behaved nobly on this occasion. He refused to take advantage of the clerical error, and run away with a certain amount of taxation upon a constitutional quibble. His Excellency prorogued the legislature, thus bringing the session to a close, and with it the proceedings on all Bills in progress.

In his speech at the opening of the new session, his Excellency said:— "Any impatience and hurry in the transactions of the public business might reproduce mistakes, which are more easily made than rectified; and a recollection that courtesy must be reciprocal, and such a feeling of



mutual respect as may incline each to put the most favourable construction upon the acts of the other, will much conduce to that ready co-operation between the two Chambers of the Legislature, which, upon this occasion, is more than ever desirable." To this the Assembly say in their address:—

"We agree with your Excellency that impatience and hurry in the transaction of public business might be productive of mistakes; it would be presumptuous in us to indulge in the hope that our proceedings can be exempt from the errors which beset all human institutions. The best test, however, of that mutual respect which your Excellency desires should exist between the several branches of the legislature, would be a generous refusal on all occasions to avail themselves of the advantages to arise from such mistakes."

Thus the matter stands at present. The House of Assembly have renewed their resolution of the previous session, not to pass any bill raising revenue beyond the 15th February (instant) until the necessary retrenchments be effected, and having passed the Import Duties and other bills in progress at the termination of that session, they adjourned to 23rd January, when the Retrenchment Bill was to be brought forward.—*Liberal.*

**BERBICE.—THE COOLIE IMMIGRANTS, THEIR DEPLORABLE CONDITION AND HARSH TREATMENT.**—We make the following extract from a lengthy article in the *Berbice Gazette* of January:—"Is there one who, in the late inclement weather, has given a passing thought to the condition of the miserable Coolies infesting our streets, our wharves, and our yards; wasted, wan, worn to shadows, hungered down to skeletons—devouring with famishing earnestness their scandalous food, procured from the carrion, robbed from the fish and the vulture, or the precarious charity of some casual thought of benevolence; scorched by day in the burning sun, and drenched by night with the tropic dews or the pouring rain, they are a bitter mockery of our legislative capacity, and a standing argument for the better regulation of our immigrant code. Their general indolence and harmlessness keep them from the gaol, and their numbers and the want of accommodation exclude them from the hospital. To them can come but one hope, and that is to die.

'Oh God, that bread should be so dear,  
And flesh and blood so cheap!'

"Now, assuredly, the man whom you have brought over at no trifling expense to the colony, and deprived of the resources which were his in his native country, has a fixed claim on your justice for the necessities of life; and their miseries and death will undoubtedly lie at the door of every one who has not exclaimed against the iniquity. I grant they are not the subjects which should have been chosen for our plantations—but, having accepted of them in the outset, we must not now shirk the duty of maintaining them. Doubtless they are indolent and unwilling to exert themselves; but where the strength and appliances for labour are not wanting, I would advocate compulsion; for no man is exempt from the obligation of earning his daily bread. Some few months ago, his honour the Sheriff adopted the rule of taking up all found idling or begging, and compelling them to work in the gaol-gang for their living. The improvement in their appearance in every respect during that period was evident to the most careless observer; and yet this excellent and truly philanthropic plan was thwarted by some stupid quibble raised on the score of the legality of such proceeding. Who would hesitate to sanction a scheme of real benevolence; and if there be the shadow of a suspicion of informality, 'To do a great good, do a little wrong,' and the Coolie and the town will be equally gainers. There is crime and vagrancy enough stirring to make this town a model of cleanliness and convenience if properly employed, instead of being, as it now is, a pestilential swamp, with its thoroughfares so many channels of muddy impurity. No wonder the jealous bigotry of the Anti-slavery Society is aroused, and the ear of the Colonial Minister poisoned against immigration, if it is palpable to the least thinking among us that there is no adequate provision for Coolie paupers, or no stringent regulation to enforce their maintenance on the parties benefited by the services of the able-bodied and the healthy. Poor miserable drudges and outcasts that they are, they are yet human beings, and, like the rest of us, possess a reasoning soul, and if Scripture deceive not, are fashioned after the image and likeness of God; and have they no claim on human sympathy, or Christian charity or are they to be left to die even as the beasts that perish? Oh, what a *miserere* going up to heaven from this province of a Christian empire, owing to the sway of a Sovereign whose proudest title is 'Defender of the Faith.' If the eye of history has seen divine agency working out the great revolutions of States, and has not hesitated to ascribe the 'ills which flesh is heir to,' to the penalty of transgression, it needs no preacher nor theologian to point the moral of these earnest though hurried remarks. The cause of the poor withereth the rich and the strong, and the wall of oppression is heard where wealth is not virtue nor iniquity venial. I am not writing a homily, but really, on worldly grounds alone, it is our interest to prevent the increase of mendicancy; so long as vagrancy is tolerated, it will be difficult to induce in the home authorities a credence in the scarcity of our supply of labour, and the indolence and inactivity admitted here will

hardly find belief against the counter-statements of interested and designing opponents. The first rudiments of strategy consist in arming your weak points, and the unsound part of the wound must be pared by the knife, lest it corrupt the sound. If you would assure the battle of the colonies, do away with the possibility of cavil. If you would make certain the triumph of immigration, remove its bane."

**TRINIDAD.**—Legislative Council, 27th January.—The Attorney-General moved that the Immigration Ordinance be recommitted.

The Ordinance was then read, clause by clause, and many slight alterations made. During the reading the following remarks were made, amongst others:—

Mr. Burnley thought they ought to have an act obliging persons to leave their names at the Colonial Secretary's office for a certain number of days, or to give security before leaving the colony. They had such an act here at one time.

Chief-Justice—Yes, that act was passed to prevent, as he understood, apprenticed labourers from leaving the colony; and was afterwards repealed because there was no necessity for it.

Mr. Burnley thought that the man who took or seduced away the labourers of another planter was guilty of a shameful sin, theft, and robbery; of an act at once most dishonest and most disgraceful, for which the penalty provided in the Ordinance, £20 sterling, was altogether too little. At least, on the non-payment of the fine, they ought to receive imprisonment, with hard labour, instead of simple imprisonment.

Chief-Justice—He did not think the authorities at home agreed to that. In England, and here, it was customary only to add hard labour to imprisonment in criminal cases.

Mr. Burnley—He considered that the man who only broke another's head was an innocent man to him who decoyed away his labourers.

Mr. Rennie said that by taking away the engineer or people from an estate, in the middle of crop, vast injury would be done—injury for which £20 or £50 would be no equivalent.

The Ordinance was then passed.

Unless something be speedily done, says the *Trinidadian* of the 3rd of February last, to secure freedom, and the chance of prosperity, to the inhabitants of Trinidad, her tide-mark will assuredly, ere long, be crossed by more emigrants than immigrants. But, alas! instead of providing for freedom and presenting the prospect of prosperity, her rulers have been busy forging a new bondage-chain. A villanous Ordinance has just been passed, entitled "*An Ordinance for Promoting the Industry of Immigrants brought into the Colony of Trinidad at the Public Expense.*" A printed copy of it lies before us, but as it is not marked "*proclaimed*," and bears the somewhat indefinite and dubious heading, "TRINIDAD, No. —, 1849," we refrain at present from farther special remarks. We tremblingly wait for a sight of the "*passed and proclaimed*" edition. We warn the Colonial Minister to pause before giving his sanction to any such Immigration Ordinance as that on which our eyes now rest with something like weeping indignation, and an almost *verbatim* copy of which, we believe, will be sent by next packet for his approval and confirmation. It is superlative madness, in the present financial condition of Trinidad, to think of immigration at the public expense, and some of the provisions in the Ordinance, relative to immigrants, are worthy of the unprincipled Dons of Cuba and Brazil. These provisions will have our early attention.

**BARBADOES.**—We make the following extracts from the speech of his Excellency the Governor, on the occasion of the opening of the legislature, on the 30th of January last:—

"I congratulate you on the prospects of an abundant harvest, for which, under Providence, you are indebted to the co-operative industry of all classes, and their cheerful submission to the privations which circumstances had imposed upon them. The habits of self-reliance, thus engendered, have been productive of their ordinary effects. It was a wise determination, looking to the means of subsistence for so large a population, to encourage the growth of provisions; and the general appearance of the island, clothed with luxuriant cane crops, and interspersed with every variety of tropical vegetable, indicates the true source of the prosperity of an agricultural community; and I trust that this change, in the rural economy of the country, will be permanent."

"Having reason to be confirmed in opinion, that, after the extinction of the African slave-trade, which, I hope, will be accomplished through the execution of existing treaties by foreign powers, these free colonies will be able successfully to compete with countries which are cultivated by slaves, I regard every improvement in the rural economy, by which your staple productions may be more economically raised, as directly conducive, not only to your own prosperity, but to the cause of humanity and freedom. In such a cause, I consider it a great privilege to be enabled to co-operate with you; and I shall rejoice if, under Providence, I may be permitted to witness, with the revival of the prosperity of this ancient and loyal colony, the final extinction of African slavery, and a



full participation of that oppressed race in the blessings of Christianity and freedom."

**FRENCH WEST INDIES.**—The latest accounts received from Martinique and Guadeloupe represent the existence of the greatest tranquillity, work having been resumed in a sufficiently satisfactory manner, especially at Guadeloupe. The sugar harvest is considered favourable, but in consequence of the prevalence of bad weather, the cutting of the canes had been delayed.

**REUNION.**—The *Feuille Hebdomadaire* of the 25th inst. has been kindly communicated by a merchant of this town, from which we gather the following:—"The emancipation which was to take place on the above date was to be celebrated by a *Te Deum*; the officers of the troops and militia were to assemble at the residence of the military commander; three volleys of artillery of twenty-one guns were to be fired from the principal battery; the first at sunrise, the second during the *Te Deum*, and the third at sunset.

Sarda Garriga issued an address to the emancipated population, dated the 18th of December, calling on them to continue to work, and that they would be recompensed.—*Mauricien*, Dec. 27.

### Miscellaneous.

**THE SLAVE-TRADE.**—We have advices from the slave coast of Western Africa to the end of the past year (Sierra Leone, December 26), by which we learn that the traffic in human flesh was very much increased, even in the short interval which elapsed between the despatch of the intelligence we last received and the arrival of the present letters. The trade was freshening on the northern part of the coast, and, at the Gallinas especially, the utmost activity and success prevailed. The prizes taken of late are three vessels by the *Sealark*, empty, but fitted up for the trade of slavery; six by the *Bonetta* brigantine; one by the *Dolphin*, with 850 slaves, in the Bights of Benin; one by the *Bittern*, one by the flag-ship *Penelope*, one by the *Amphitrite*, and one by the *Pantaloon*, under American colours; the *Firefly* had taken one, and the *Pluto* one. The most successful vessel on the coast is the *Grappler*, a small steamer of 220 horse-power, whose fleetness enabled her to accomplish what other cruisers frequently failed in—the overhaul and capture of the suspected vessel. She has made nearly a score of prizes since she has been on the coast, and in them upwards of 3,000 ironed and herring-packed Africans. The *Pluto's* prize made a desperate resistance, and, but for assistance given her from the *Rapid*, would have made bloody havoc with her captors in the night; as it was, she contrived in desperation to put herself aground, where the *Pluto* was compelled to burn her, after measurement. A subsequent prize was made by the *Pluto*, in charge of Lieutenant Crowder, of the *Rapid*, while on his passage with that steamer from the Congo to the Bights of Benin, to give up the vessel to another commander; this capture had between 350 and 400 slaves in her. The *Contest* had made a capture of an empty slaver just as the *Bittern* was leaving the coast for England. In every quarter from which news is received, the slave-trade is in full swing, and more vigorously carried on than it has been at any previous time since the establishment of the blockade. In November, news was received on the coast, from the Havana, that fourteen slavers were being fitted out, and would shortly start to traffic from the Gallinas.—*American Paper*.

The latest accounts received state that the Commander-in-Chief had destroyed all the barracoons at the Gallinas, and had commenced hostilities against the chiefs.

**HOUSE OF COMMONS.**—SLAVE-TRADE PETITIONS, NOMINATION OF COMMITTEE, &c.—*March 2nd.* Worcester: Petition for adoption of measures for suppression of the African slave-trade, to lie on the table.—*March 8th.* Similar petitions from Woodbridge and Belfast.—*March 12th.* From Penryn and Falmouth.—*March 14th.* From Swanage.—*March 15th.* From Salcombe and Kingsbridge.—*March 19th.* From Liskeard and Bradninch.—*March 22nd.* From Brighton.—*March 23rd.* From Woodstock.—*March 28th.* From Warminster, Kingsbridge, Leighton Buzzard, and Olney.—*Feb. 28th.* TRINIDAD: Petition of the Honorary Secretaries of the Belfast Anti-Slavery Society, for withholding the sanction of the Government from certain resolutions proposed by the Legislative Council of Trinidad, in reference to Africans transferred from captured slavers, to lie on the table. CEYLON AND BRITISH GUIANA: Committee nominated—Mr. Hume, Sir Joshua Walmsley, Sir Robert Peel, Sir James Hogg, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Charles Villiers, Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Hawes, Mr. Adderley, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Stuart Wortley, Lord Hotham, Mr. Baillie, Mr. McCallagh, and Major Blackall. Power to send for persons, papers, and records; five to be the quorum.

\* \* Just on the eve of going to press, we have received our usual supply of West India papers, which have come to hand several days after their usual time. We have not been able to do more than glance over them. We find, however, that there are one or two items of intelligence, which will be interesting to our readers, which we subjoin. The first is from BARBADOES, and refers to the petition forwarded from thence to the Queen, on the subject of the enforcement of the slave-trade treaties with Spain and Brazil. The following is the reply of Lord Grey to the Governor, which Sir William Colebrooke laid before the Council:—

#### SLAVE-TRADE TREATIES.

Downing-street, 8th January, 1849.

Sir,—I have received your despatch No. 12, of the 22nd November, transmitting a Petition to the Queen from the Council and Assembly of Barbadoes, on the subject of the enforcement of the treaties entered into with the Government of Spain for the abolition of the slave-trade.

You will acquaint the Council and Assembly that I have laid their Memorial before the Queen, by whom it has been received very graciously.

You will, at the same time, state to the Memorialists that *the matters of which their Memorial treats are of great importance, and that they deserve and will receive the serious attention of her Majesty's Government.*

I have, &c.,

GREY.

(Signed)

Governor Sir W. Colebrooke, &c., &c., &c.

From BRITISH GUIANA we learn of the arrival of Governor Barkly, who was received with due honours. The tone of the press in relation to the appointment is nothing altered. The planters fear that he is too much shackled to answer all their purposes. From TRINIDAD we have the following information:—The question of the Government loan has been the chief topic of consideration. At a meeting of the Legislative Council on the 10th of February last, Mr. Rennie moved that "At present it is not expedient to borrow money except for the immigration of free labour, and that on such terms and conditions as would render it permanently useful to the colony," which was carried.

#### DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The following subscriptions have been received since our last, and are hereby thankfully acknowledged:—

	Donations.	Subscriptions.
<i>Tottenham.</i> —Forster, Josiah .....		3 3 0
<i>Exeter.</i> —Ladies' Anti-Slavery Society ....	4 5 0	
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Martin, Henry .....		0 10 0
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